



## A Victory For Morality

One of the most surprising things (at least to the media pundits) to come out of this past Tuesday's election was that whopping twenty-five percent of the voters said that morals was the number one issue that drove them to the polls. Prior to the election, there were not many saying that this would be a contributing factor. Most, if not all, of the media were saying that the election was a referendum on Iraq. Many said that it was the economy. However, when the voters came out to vote, the truth was that more voters were concerned about morality than the other issues. This is a good thing.

The Bible says, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). History has also proven this to be true as well. The great empire, Rome, fell, not because of its lack of power, but because of its abandonment of moral values. Corruption and abuses within the Catholic Church lead to the protestant reformation. Russian communism ultimately failed because it taught that there was no such thing as that which is morally right or wrong. Our nation need not think that it somehow has the "secret" to being immoral, yet not failing as a country. Such hubris flies in the face of history.

I've heard a couple of things from the "spin doctors" this week as to why the vote went the way it did. One thing that I heard was that the "benefits of a secular state" simply were not pursued with enough vigor. The truth is that there is really no such thing as a secular state; God controls it all (Psalm 83:18). Those who believe that the state can be wholly secular have forgotten the lessons of communism. Indeed, a state needs to have at its foundation some kind of fundamental morals. There is that which is right and that which is wrong; society ought to base its laws upon that which is morally right.

Some have suggested that if it doesn't "hurt" anybody else then we ought not to

prohibit whatever action it is that doesn't "hurt" someone else. The problem with this thinking is that when we do something morally wrong, it always hurts someone else. The disease of AIDS exists today as testament to the FACT that behavior that allegedly "doesn't hurt anyone else" truly does hurt, and kill others. How many children must live with such a horrible disease because of the actions of some mother or father that "didn't hurt anyone else?" Our actions (whether seemingly innocent or not) always have consequences; God said long ago, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7, 8).

Another thing that I have heard this past week is that the losing party simply did not get out the message that they have morals too. This is partly incorrect. The losing party made a great effort to convince some that they did have morals. One of the more popular slogans that was touted was that they wanted to hear "less about family values and more about valuing families." If I had a dime for each time that was said...well, you get the picture. It was simply not the case that an effort was not made. It was just that those who truly do have family values and also value families, recognized there was no substance to that message. When you do nothing to stop the murder of unborn children; when you ride the fence when it comes to the issue of gay marriage; when you fail to recognize the selfishness in physician/state assisted suicide; when you suggest that we ought to experiment with human life through embryonic stem-cell research; and when your party fights to eliminate any and all religious influence in our nations schools, one has to ask, "What, exactly, do you value? What, specifically, are your morals?"

This election was truly a victory for morality; however, there is work yet to do in this arena. With every new generation

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Standing Where the Fire Once Burned

It was not too long ago that wildfires ravaged hundreds of acres of forests in the upper west region of America in states like Montana. I remember that as I was flying over this area on my way to Seattle the smoke from these immense fires reaching as high as the plane I was in. The land and mountainsides bore the black scorched scar of the fire and some still in progress could be seen.

Then out of this a story of incredible survival. Four firefighters engaged in battling the blaze suddenly and without warning found themselves surrounded by the very fire they fought. No way in for rescue. No way out for escape. The firefighters were certainly doomed to perish in the inferno.

But one of them made a suggestion which just seemed that it may work. Starting a fire of their own they burnt ground around them in a circle and worked it out away from them. The idea was to burn and then enter into the circle as close to the center as possible after the flames had eaten the fuel for any fire. Then they would huddle together close to the ground covering themselves with their fire blankets.

The roar of the flames was tremendous and trees exploded as the sap within them expanded due to the immense heat. The air was thick and nearly unbearable and the fire came closer and closer.

The heat was intense and seemed to want to devour the men who were trying to escape. Burning, burning. It seemed an eternity's time.

But what the men had did worked. The flames approached but could not find more fuel to burn. The fires burned around the men but did not reach them. They had survived having stood where the fire once burned.

The same is true spiritually. There is fire which will come when Christ appears with His mighty angels in flaming fire, II Thess 1:7-8. There is coming a fire in which the earth and all its works shall be burnt up and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, II Pet. 3:10. The only way to survive it is to stand where the fire once burned. Where is that? At the Cross. At Calvary. At Golgatha.

Consider Isa. 53:4-5, "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed".

Stricken. Scourged. Afflicted. Pierced. Crushed. Smitten of God. On your behalf. Jesus took what was rightfully ours for sin and took it upon Himself. The "fire" of God against sin was poured out at the Cross.

The "fire" of God once burned at Calvary. The fire of God comes again in judgment upon the whole earth. The

only way of escape is to be found standing where the fire once burned.

*Jim Wright, Vienna, WV*

*(Continued from page 1)*

that is raised comes the responsibility to pass along to them the right morals. Deuteronomy 11:18-21 exemplifies this point so well:

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

I am deeply thankful for each one who voted for that which is right. You, the voter, made a difference in our country on the issue of morality. And while our victory for today is won, the cause of tomorrow remains. It is not time to lay down arms, but to press the fight forward! "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

Kevin Cauley

## Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 11/07/04

Morning .....	Things That Unite—One Lord
Scripture .....	Ephesians 4:1-6
Evening .....	Questions on Holidays
Scripture .....	Galatians 4:9-11
Sunday Morning Bible Study .....	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study .....	The Book of Nahum

## Weekly Record

Week of 10/31/04

Sunday Class .....	74
Sunday A.M. ....	84
Sunday P.M. ....	59
Wednesday .....	54
Contribution .....	\$1700.00
Budget .....	\$1778.13

## Do We Mean What We Sing?

It should thrill our soul to join with the children of God in singing His praises! (Rev. 19:1, 4-6). We see, however, so many who claim to be Christians who are living contrary to the words of the songs we offer before our heavenly Father in praise. Do we really mean what we sing? Let's consider the following list of songs and the footnotes after them:

- "Soldiers Of Christ, Arise" \_\_\_ just not too early!
- "Seeking The Lost" \_\_\_ if it doesn't require too much of my time.
- "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes" \_\_\_ if the work doesn't conflict with my busy schedule.
- "Tell Me The Old, Old Story" \_\_\_ if it doesn't take too long.

- "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" \_\_\_ if it doesn't conflict with what I want.
- "If Jesus Goes With Me" \_\_\_ it may be embarrassing for us both!
- "O Lord, Our Lord" \_\_\_ I say it every time I'm angry or hit my thumb with a hammer!
- "More About Jesus Would I Know" \_\_\_ unless it requires that I read and study my Bible every day (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15).
- "Give Me The Bible" \_\_\_ just don't make it too plain or too challenging.
- "I'm Not Ashamed To Own My Lord" \_\_\_ until I'm in the company of unbelievers (cf. Mt. 26:57-58, 69-75; Mk. 14:66-72; Lk. 22:54-62; Jn. 18:15-17).
- "Take The World, But Give Me

Jesus" \_\_\_ just don't take too much of it!

- "If We Never Meet Again This Side Of Heaven" \_\_\_ don't be surprised; you now know why.

Brethren, let us truly "mean what we sing" as we sing praises unto our God. How wonderful it will be "When All Of God's Singers Get Home." To be certain we are among them, let us truly live as we sincerely sing and mean the words to, "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah!" (Psa. 47:6-7; 148:1-14; cf. Rev. 19:1,4-6).

Mike Riley  
El Paso, TX

## Kevin's Korner

I want to extend my public thanks to Bob Deffenbaugh for filling in for me during my illness. Bob always does a fine job and I can always count on him to help out in a pinch. I know that Bob also enjoys coming down and visiting with the church here in Berryville from time to time. I surmise that the congregation had a "treat" instead of a "treatment" this past Sunday. For that, I am thankful.

I am also thankful to be "on the mend" from my illness. I got checked out by the "doctor" this past Tuesday and he said that it was likely a virus. Some are starting to get the flu now, so I suppose it is possible that I might have had that. Regardless, it seems to have "passed" for the moment.

Last Thursday prior to my getting ill, we had parent/teacher conferences

with Austin and Charlie's teachers. The boys are doing very well in school this year and seem to be "on track" as far as their individual goals and achievements are concerned. We are thankful for this as well.

This past Wednesday afternoon, Mary Lynn and I went to Harrison for a regular pregnancy check up. The doctor said that the baby is doing fine. Mary Lynn is starting to experience some discomfort, but overall is doing very well with the pregnancy. We were happy to hear that everything appears normal and on schedule. Once again, we are thankful that everything is going well here.

This past week, we had an election and a victory was won for morality. I am extremely thankful for that.

You may have already caught on to a theme in this short article I write. There are so many things for which to be thankful. I could go on and men-

tion more. No doubt you too would have to break out all of your fingers and toes to count the things for which you are thankful, and even then, not be finished counting. So, have you sat down and taken time to tell God how thankful you are? We are approaching the time of our "Thanksgiving." Let's be thankful not just now, but always. In everything, "be thankful" (Col.3:15; Phil.4:6).

### Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,  
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn  
Quigley

### Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,  
Rusty Windle.

### Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Gary Bragg, Ruby Hand, Vernice Hayden, Toy Peach, Bill Powell, Iola Trost, Billie Wylie.
- Ralph Hunter is in the hospital and been diagnosed in need of a pace-maker. Please pray for him and his family.
- The monthly men's breakfast will be held this coming Saturday morning at 7:00 AM. Please make your plans to come and enjoy fellowship one with another.
- The Children's Home truck will be here on Monday, November 29th. They are asking for good used items (appliances, furniture, toys, and clothing for both children and adults). They sell these items in their "thrift store" to benefit the children's home. If you have items to donate, please put them into labeled boxes. Of course, they will also pick up food from our pantry while here. Please feel free to bring any food item for the pantry this month. Thanks for your wonderful love and support for this good work.
- The monthly elders and deacons meeting is tonight after services. If you have an item of concern, please see one of those men.
- Our monthly question and answer session will be next Sunday. If you have a Bible question please insert it into the box in Kevin's office.
- Thank you to everyone who came to the quarterly singing at the nursing home. Your presence was greatly appreciated!
- The pantry item for this week is deodorizer.



## Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

### Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship: ..... 10:30 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship: ..... 6:00 PM  
 Ladies Bible Class: ..... 10:30 AM  
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: ..... 7:00 PM

### Serving Each Other

November 7th, 2004      November 14th, 2004

	November 7th, 2004	November 14th, 2004
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Brent Stevens	Bob Moore
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Bruce Foster	John Gass
(assist)	Bob Moore	Glenn Quigley
	Jerry Roller	Bruce Foster
	Brandon Foster	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Brent Stevens
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Bob Moore
Scripture Reading:	Brandon Foster	Brent Moore
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	George Eddings
	John Gass	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	John Gass

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.