



Unburying Buried Treasure

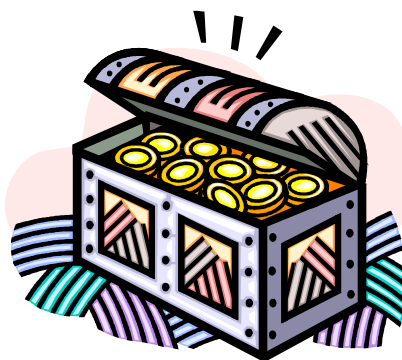
Did you know that there is buried treasure in Arkansas? It's true. I was watching Nightline a few days ago and they did a story on a treasure hunter who has been searching for Arkansas' lost treasures from the civil war. Evidently, a group of southern militants thought that the southern states would rise up against the north again one day and would need money to finance their cause. So they buried treasure all over the hills of Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma. Where is the treasure, you might ask? In order to find it, you need to know the code.

A code, you say? Yes, a code. You see, those who buried this treasure were not so foolish as to simply draw a map to where "X" marks the spot, so to speak. Any person would be able to follow such a map, dig up the treasure, and get away with the loot. No, these treasure buriers were much smarter than that. They devised a scheme whereby one object of the treasure was in a geometrical relationship to yet another object. That object was then in yet another geometrical relationship. Unless one knew what the various geometrical relationships were to each of the various buried articles, one would simply end up finding a single object, not knowing that there were far many more objects buried.

This sounds difficult, but do you know that in order to find buried treasure people will use all of their education, all of the talents of their mind, all of their finances, and all of their efforts in order to locate such treasure? One such treasure was recently found in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico where tens of millions of dollars were spent to find a post Civil War merchant ship headed to the south for reconstruction. The ship was loaded with gold and silver coins. Once recovered the coins alone are expected to be worth

approximately \$400,000,000. What difficulty would one not endure for such a trove?

We know the lengths to which men will go looking for physical buried treasure. Yet such treasure is fleeting and only lasts while one is alive long enough to make use of it. There is, however, a treasure upon which time has no grasp and upon which there is no limit of use or value. What is that treasure and where is it? Jesus spoke of this treasure in Matthew 13:44, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." The kingdom of heaven is that great treasure. Where can we find that treasure? We can find the map to it in the pages of the gospel. Unlike some complicated treasure bury-



ing system, the gospel is easy to understand and practice if one will simply read what the words say. Unlike having to spend millions of dollars to unearth, uncover, or salvage from the depths of the sea a physical treasure, the treasure that Jesus' offers is free and available to all.

What hinders a person from discovering this treasure? One simple thing. Their own perception of its value. We treasure what we value. Anything we consider valuable, we treasure. If we didn't value gold or silver, we wouldn't treasure it. It would be of no more of a treasure than the sand on the beach if we placed no value upon it. Jesus knew this as well. In Matthew 6:19-21 He said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where

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Naaman—A “Legend In His Own Mind”

In the character of Naaman, we see a man who was truly a "legend in his own mind." Many are misunderstanding and rejecting God's Word today because they desire to please self instead of pleasing God (2 Kings 5:11-12).

Let's note some other possible reasons why Naaman was a "legend in his own mind." From the beginning of this story in 2 Kings 5:1, we see at least two possible reasons that could have played a factor resulting in the arrogant attitude of Naaman: (1) He was a "great" and "honorable" man in the eyes of the Syrian king (Ben-hadad - 2 Kings 5:1; cf. 2 Kings. 6:24); (2) He was a "mighty man in valor" (2 Kings 5:1). It is possible that Naaman simply thought of himself as "great" and "mighty." As a result, he would have displayed an attitude of self-importance resulting in his arrogant disposition.

After the prophet (Elisha) sent a messenger to Naaman giving him God's instructions on the process of getting rid of his leprosy, Naaman thought his ideas were better than God's instructions (2 Kings 5:10-12). He should have been thankful and satisfied with the promise of being made clean of his leprosy.

Instead, "Naaman became furious" (2 Kings 5:11 - NKJV) because he didn't get "his way" or "I thought").

In the religious world we live in today, many folks become angry when God's word doesn't match up with their wants. "Their thoughts" take precedence over "God's thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). We desperately need to dispense with that kind of selfish pride and be more concerned with what God thinks than what we think (Romans 11:33-36).

We also see a attitude of unthankfulness in the character of Naaman. Did he appreciate or offer any expression of thanks to the young Hebrew slave for telling her mistress (Naaman's wife) about a prophet (Elisha) who could ask God to cleanse him of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:2-3)? (Note: After the cleansing of his leprosy, Naaman did finally humble himself and expressed his thankfulness to Elisha, the prophet - 2 Kings 5:10,15).

In Romans 12:3, Paul exhorts each of the brethren at Rome, "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think..." Every Christian should work at having a character of humility, because there is a great tendency within many of us to think too highly of ourselves, i.e. our intellect, abilities, etc. Remember that

God stands against such puffed up attitudes (1 Peter 5:5). Paul's exhortation to us is to think of ourselves wisely and accurately, making a sane and well-balanced evaluation of our abilities - not an insane, unbalanced judgment.

Are we sometimes like Naaman, thinking that we are a "legend in our own mind?" If we think we are, perhaps we need to "humble ourselves" before God and ask His forgiveness that we might become better servants of His (2 Chronicles 7:14; Jam. 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:6).

Mike Riley
El Paso, Texas

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vain-glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” (Philippians 2:1-4)

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 12/12/04

Morning	Christ Receiveth Sinful Men
Scripture	Mark 2:15-17
Evening	Questions and Answers
Scripture	NA
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	Studies of the Cross

Weekly Record

Week of 12/08/04

Sunday Class	64
Sunday A.M.	79
Sunday P.M.	68
Wednesday	50
Contribution	\$1735.30
Budget	\$1778.13

You Finish The Story!

Once there was a congregation in which every member was just like you. Each one cooperated and supported every program just the way you have been doing. Everyone worked hard to attend all the worship services and Bible classes that you do. Each member is as friendly as you are with the visitors and the brethren. Every member is just as concerned about lost souls as you are. The giving of this congregation was just like yours was. The devotion in worship as well. Thus, with in a year or so this congregation . . .

What if the church where we attended was just like us? How would she be?

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your treasure is, there will your heart be also." What we value is what we treasure and what we treasure is where our heart truly belongs. What buried treasure will you unbury this week?

We never have a problem committing all of our resources and efforts in finding and obtaining that which we truly believe is valuable. What do you believe is truly valuable? Where is your heart, dear reader? Do you value silver, gold, or any other earthly and corruptible possession? Or do you value that which is spiritual, incorruptible, and eternal? I hope, for the sake of your soul, you will consider what is truly valuable and put all of your efforts into obtaining it without hesitation or regret.

Kevin Cauley

**Happy Birthday/
Anniversary!**

We would like to wish a happy birthday and anniversary to all who have such in the month of December!

Birthdays

Mary Lynn Cauley..... 9th
James Spencer..... 9th
Grace Windle..... 19th
Opal Hull 25th
Bob Moore..... 29th

Anniversaries

Ken and Debbie 14th
Bruce and Trish 18th

Kevin's Korner—In The News

Would you like to live for 1000 years? I heard on Paul Harvey this week regarding a researcher who believes that aging is just like any other disease and that a cure can be found for it. This "disease" he says is linked to problems in cell regeneration and once those problems are "fixed" then man can live to be as old or older than Methuselah.

In theory, the Bible agrees that man can live for such lengths of time. In reading the first few chapters of Genesis, we learn that folks from Adam to Methuselah routinely lived to be 900 years old. Bible believers have postulated that the reason for such ages was the purity of their genes didn't produce problems in cell regeneration. "Old silly superstition" is what many have called it in the past, but like all things, science even-

tually catches up to the Bible! Living to be 900 years old doesn't sound so silly and superstitious any more, does it?

For more information, see: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4003063.stm>

In another interesting news article this week, renowned atheist Dr. Anthony Flew has changed his opinion on the existence of "God." Dr. Flew stated that a super-intelligence is the only good explanation for the origin of life and the complexity of nature. Flew stated that he still doesn't believe in the God of the Bible, nor in an after-life. Neither did he give any support to the idea that God has revealed himself to man.

There are a few notable things here. First, this is a major slap in the face of the naturalistic evolutionists. Dr. Flew was one of their poster boys. It's tremendously significant that he has

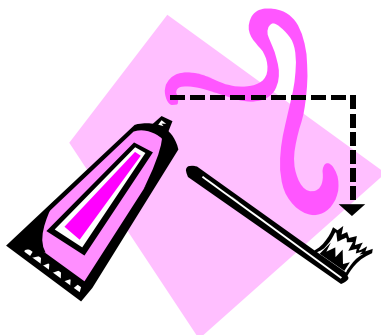
rejected evolution as the explanation for the universe, especially in light of the recent National Geographic magazine issue that defended it. But, one has to wonder what good it does to believe in "God" if he is not a god that does anything for us, tells us about Himself, or promises an after-life. For more information see: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=315976>

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!
- Please pray for the following individuals who have had health problems of late: Joann Bragg, John Gass, Chris Waters, Maxine Whitely.
- Please remember our shut-ins: Curtis and Opal Hull and Edith Mischler.
- The annual holiday party is Friday December 17th at Ken and Debbie Smith's home. Eating will commence at 6:30 so bring your food early.
- The elders were happy to announce this past week that our storage building and land that was purchased behind our current property has been paid off.
- For the year 2005, a monthly duty schedule has been posted on the Foyer bulletin board. Please let Kevin know if there are any additions, subtractions, or modifications so that we can begin the schedule in January.
- Tonight is our monthly question and answers night. As always, bring your Bibles and come ready to study!
- Next Sunday afternoon is our monthly potluck.
- The pantry item for this week is toothpaste.



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

December 12th, 2004 December 19th, 2004

	December 12th, 2004	December 19th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table	Bob Moore	Dan Hand
	Brent Stevens	John Gass
(assist)	Jack Gentry	Jerry Roller
	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Clay Bozarth
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Leon Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Dale Pinkley	Clay Bozarth
	George Eddings	Brent Stevens
Closing Prayer	Ray Duncan	Bob Philips
Wednesday		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Quigley	Glenn Williams
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Kevin Cauley	George Eddings

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