



“The Greatest American”

Some of you may know that the Discovery Channel is doing a series of television shows on "The Greatest American." Through some process they have selected 100 different nominees for this title and through the month of June they will be airing a program that discusses these individuals. They will also be narrowing the focus down to twenty-five "finalists" and ultimately select "The Greatest American," at least, according to their perspective.

Who would you select to be the "Greatest American?" Someone recently wrote and said they would select their mother and father because to them, those individuals are the greatest Americans that he has known. That's pretty good thinking.

Often what we think of as the "greatest" isn't based upon what truly has affected us as great, but what society as a whole pressures us to think of as "great." The "great" must be someone who has achieved fame, is above average, esteemed highly, accomplished some great achievement, or attained special academic status. And while some may attain such levels in this life, the majority of the earth's population simply won't measure up, at least, according to the world's standard.

How comforting then is it to know that God doesn't have the same standard as the

world. There was one occasion in the life of Jesus when his disciples took up this very question: "Who is the greatest?" (Matthew 18:1). The next few verses read: "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:2-4).



At another opportunity, some disciples were arguing over who would sit on the right hand and left of Jesus in the kingdom. We read Jesus response in Matthew 20:25-28 "But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever

will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

It's not the "great" who will be the "greatest" in God's kingdom, but the one who humbles himself and becomes everyone else's servant.

I've heard some ask, "Well, who might that 'great' one be? Who is the most humble? Who serves the most?" This is missing the point. It is just getting back to the same question the disciples had already asked, just in a different form. The point Jesus is making is that there is no one person who is "the greatest." At the same time there may be many who are the "greatest." How is that so?

What matters is our attitude. Even when we have served all that we can serve, we must still admit that we are unprofitable servants according to Luke 17:10. In that regard, we can never be the greatest. At the same time, we can be the greatest that we can be in the eyes of the Lord if we seek to love him with all of our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37). In this way, God sees us as His children, each being what they can be to be pleasing to their father. So each of

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Where Is The "Magic" In This Church?



"Look for things to do. Does someone have to ask us to perform some task? "

There are weeds to be pulled, rocks to toss aside, grass to mow and a fence to shore up. There is painting to do, a garage that needs to be straightened up and an office that is hopeless. Who can I get to take care of those needs? What's wrong with this picture? You guessed it — I need to do it. Me. Not you or someone else, but me, myself, and I.

In my growing-up years I had a magic laundry bag. The beauty of that laundry bag was that when I had clothes that needed washing and ironing, I could put them in that bag and a day or two later I would find them clean, ironed and hanging on a hanger ready to wear. Then I went off to college. One of the first things packed was that laundry bag, carefully folded in its place, for it would surely be needed while I was in school. To my dismay, however, as soon as I left the city limits of Fort Worthy the magic disappeared. I put the soiled

clothes in it, left it as before—but two or three days later they were still there, still soiled. The magic was gone.

Some of us grew up in a congregation that had the same "magic." If something needed to be done, two or three days later — "Magic" — it was done. Baptistry needed cleaning? Sick needing a visit? Classes to be taught? Carpet to be vacuumed? When Jesus left this earth, He told his disciples there was a lot of work to do, mainly taking His Gospel to the lost, both at home and abroad. Have all of us learned to share this load, and "take up our cross daily" (Luke 9:23) and fulfill the responsibility given to us as His people?

Look for things to do. Does someone have to ask us to perform some task? There are plenty of works that need to be done if we will but look for them.

Carl Garner
Dripping Springs, TX

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us can be the "greatest" and at the same time none of us will be "the greatest."

In this regard, Micah 6:8 comes to mind. The people in Micah's day were kind of asking this same question. They wanted to know what they could do to be the greatest. Would thousands of burnt offerings do it? How about 10,000 rivers of oil? What about sacrificing my firstborn? None of those things would have made them great, so far as God was concerned. Instead the reply is: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Indeed, that's what it takes to be the greatest.

Kevin Cauley



Bible Studies for the week of June 5th, 2005

- AM Sermon..... Motives for Evangelism
- Scripture Reading..... Mark 5:18-20
- PM Sermon..... The Book of Job
- Scripture Reading..... NA
- Sunday Class The Book of Hebrews
- Wednesday Class..... To Be Announced

Kevin's Korner— Culture Wars

On the bulletin board I have placed several pieces of paper from the Parents Television Council. This information is regarding the recent television ads that have been running for what we know locally as "Hardees." These ads, which have run on most of the major networks, have involved sexually suggestive and sometimes graphic content all for the express purpose of selling hamburgers. I have to admit that when Hardees first came out with their "Thickburgers" that I really did like them. But I simply cannot personally condone purchasing one anymore due to the lewd and indecent content of their commercials. The Parents Television Council has encouraged individuals to write to the company that owns Hardees and Carl Jr.s and tell them that we don't appreciate such indecency on the public airwaves. I would encourage you to read the ma-

terial and act according to your conscience in that regard. For those of you who have Internet access, you can get the same information from www.parentstv.org.

The "marriage amendment" movement in this country is continuing to roll. Several things have happened along that line in our nation. First, on May 12th, a federal judge has stricken down a Nebraska amendment that limited marriage between a man and a woman. However, in another case in Kentucky, a judge (albeit not a federal one) upheld the states right to have such an amendment. You can bet that the pro-homosexual crowd is going after these federal judges to try to get them to undo all of these state amendments that have recently been passed. It will then likely go to the Supreme Court for a decision if our representatives and senators and states don't first pass a constitutional amendment de-

fining marriage. This means that we need to be calling and telling our senators and representatives how we expect them to vote on these issues. Unfortunately, Arkansas has some pretty liberal minded senators when it comes to these social issues, which is a shame because they refuse to represent our state appropriately in that regard. The battle on this issue is just getting started and we need to continue the fight! For more information on the Internet, go to www.allianceformarriage.org.

Maybe you're starting to see why those Supreme Court vacancies that are looming are very important. Also, why we need our Senators to do their jobs and give us an up or down vote and not use stalling tactics to delay the appointment of good judges. We have an ongoing culture ware to fight. We've got to keep at it!



"Arkansas has some pretty liberal minded senators when it comes to these social issues..."

Records for the week of May 29th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class	51
Sunday AM Worship.....	64
Sunday PM Worship.....	52
Wednesday Night Study.....	52
Contribution	\$1427.00
Budget.....	\$1662.00



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Rex Gentry, Kala Guess, Donna Henderson, Huggetta Hand, John Stuckey, Neva Welch.
- Remember our shut ins: Opal Hull and Edith Mischler.
- Congratulations to Matt and Megan Bassing who were wed yesterday at the Berryville Community Center.
- Perry Foster heads off to boot camp for the national guard this coming Tuesday. His family requests prayers.
- Men's breakfast is this coming Saturday at 7:00 A.M.
- Our elders and deacons meeting is tonight after services.
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home is Thursday at 2:00 P.M.
- Ladies Bible class has been dismissed for the summer. We will resume the first Wednesday in September.
- Our Bible class quarter changes today. Dale Pinkley will be teaching Wednesday night in the adult class. Kevin will be in the high school class.
- If you missed Wednesday night's announcement, we will continue our study in the book of Job on Sunday evening until the book is complete.
- Our pantry item is: Green Beans.

Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

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

	June 5th, 2005	June 12th, 2005
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Bill Fort	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	John Gass	Brent Moore
Lord's Table	Barrett Brown	Bob Moore
(assist)	Rusty Windle	Michael Morrell
	Jack Gentry	John Gass
	George Eddings	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Michael Morrell	Irvin Hand
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
Scripture Reading:	Bruce Foster	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Brandon Foster	George Eddings
	Dale Pinkley	Bob Phillips
Closing Prayer	Bob Phillips	Leon Duncan
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Clay Bozarth
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	John Gass
Invitation:	Ken Smith	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Bob Phillips

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