



The Sins of Benedict Arnold

We've all heard of the famous traitor Benedict Arnold, heralded in our American history classes as one of the most infamous traitors to the United States during the revolutionary war. But did you know that Arnold was first a General in the Continental Army and a war hero? That's right, he was credited with the victory against the British at the battle of Saratoga and even was wounded in the leg in battle. Yet, that's not how history remembers the name Benedict Arnold.

After this battle, Arnold had to retire from active combat and settled down into a desk job. He married a British sympathizer, though he didn't consider it a big deal at the time. He was bitter that the Congress hadn't recognized his accomplishments and given him a promotion. He also wasn't a very popular person with civilians, and was accused of using his public office to advance his personal fortune. For this accusation he was court-martialed and found guilty. It was a minor offense and the only thing the board demanded was a letter of reprimand. Washington didn't even mail it to him, just stuck it in a file, but with all of the other bitterness that Arnold had felt, that was the last straw. His wife was a British sympathizer and she put him in contact with some of the enemy. Arnold could have disclosed some very critical information and was going to do that when the courier taking his

messages were intercepted. Washington found out about it and sought to have Arnold arrested, but he fled to British lines. He became a General for the British Army and lived in England for the rest of his days, to the delight of his wife, who desired that more than anything.

One lesson we learn from Arnold's life is that little things build up into big things. Arnold didn't get up one morning and say, "I think I'll be a traitor today." Gradually, over time, the circumstances of his life wore on him until he felt compelled to act in the way he did. The same can be true for our life. Multiple small annoyances can build up to the point that we lash out at our family and friends. We need to battle such annoyances with contentment and thanksgiving. When we learn to be thankful for everything around us, then we won't be annoyed at something that doesn't go our way. When we become content with our circumstances, then annoyances won't have any meaning as they will be accepted as part of our life. Arnold didn't understand the value of thanksgiving and contentment. Paul wrote, "for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11). We need to be on constant guard that we are not so led into sin.

Another lesson that we learn is that our lives are open books for others to read and we need to be keenly aware of that.

Arnold's use of public funds for personal profit was something that should never have happened. A Christian has a great responsibility to let his light shine to all who are around (Matthew 5:16). This means that our lives are open for inspection at any point and at any time. Christians cannot afford to have "secrets" to which others are not privy. We must learn to "provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Romans 12:17).

Finally, we learn that Arnold didn't choose his company very wisely when he married a British sympathizer. The people that we associate with and especially the person that we eventually marry, will have more influence upon our lives that we expect. Paul warned of the potential danger of our friends in 1 Corinthians 15:33 when he said, "Be not deceived: Evil companions corrupt good morals" (ASV). Arnold didn't choose his companions wisely and in the end, it cost him dearly.

Arnold's actions are historically notorious but there were reasons why he came to the point he did. We need to make sure that we don't have such "reasons" in our lives that will betray our Lord and prevent us from entering heaven. Perhaps the greatest lesson from Arnold is that it doesn't matter how big of a hero you are, you can still fall (1 Corinthians 10:12)!

Kevin Cauley

What is Required?



“God nowhere requires us to be successful, but it is mandatory that we be faithful....”

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2. ...be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

Many servants of God become discouraged due to the fact they have little success in leading the lost to Christ. They feel if they are unable to be successful, they will quit altogether. During the past several years success has been the name of the game. The successful preacher, as the world measures success, has been labeled as “great.”

Now I like to see responses as well as the next person, and I have had the privilege of seeing 60 or 70 people come forward during my meetings with ten or fifteen baptisms in one service. When this happens my heart is thrilled. On the other hand, I have worked just as hard, expending all my strength in preaching the Word without one response.

If we are not careful, we will begin to use the world’s standard of measurement, judging preachers by the number of responses, size of congregation, and salary received. Just because a man’s name is constantly before the public and he is heralded before the world as great doesn’t mean he has made first string on the Lord’s team. A number of noble souls are laboring in out-of-the-way places in almost total obscurity. Only a handful outside their communities know of their labor and sacrifice for the Lord. Perhaps in God’s sight, these faithful but unknown workers are the “great preachers” of our generation.

God nowhere requires us to be successful, but it is mandatory that we be faithful—he doesn’t demand that we be popular and a promoter, but he demands that we be faithful. He doesn’t ask that we draw a big salary, live in a fine house and have membership in a large congregation. God requires

that we be faithful. In describing a congregation in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit says little or nothing about the building, the preacher, the leaders, the attendance, the number baptized, the number placing membership, the number asking for prayers, the annual budget or the weekly contribution. The thing emphasized is their faith, labor of love, hope soundness in the Word, etc. Faithfulness is the primary requisite of service, not apparent accomplishment.

Sometime back a brother wrote, “When all is said and done, a sermon is a success or failure, depending on the results it produces.” That sounds good, but it is just not so! Ezekiel was called to preach to a rebellious people. God said, “*they will not hearken unto thee: for they will not hearken unto me.*” The prophet was told to go anyway so that the people could know of God’s warning and stand in judgment without excuse. “*And*



Bible Studies for the week of August 28th, 2005

AM Sermon.....	Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled
Scripture Reading.....	Luke 24:19-32
PM Sermon.....	The Book of Job
Scripture Reading.....	NA
Sunday Class	The Book of Matthew
Wednesday Class.....	TBA

they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, yet shall they know that there has been a prophet among them" (Ezekiel 2:5). He was called to be faithful.

God told us to teach His Word. When we have done this task to the best of our ability, whether anyone believes it and obeys it or not, God is pleased with the faithfulness of the messenger. The Lord's highest commendation in the Day of Judgment will be for faithfulness in fulfilling His will (Matthew 25:21,23). Let us stop equating faithfulness with success. Why not talk to Noah sometime about the difference between success and faithfulness?

Bobby Key

This past week has been good. We've settled down into a "school-time" pattern. The boys are at different buildings now and that has been a bit of a challenge. We're not quite sure how all of that is going to work out. Austin and I have been riding our bicycles to his school

Kevin's Korner

which is less than a mile from our house. Because Charlie's school is on the other side of hwy 62, we drive him in the car for safety reasons. I've been going to the community center early in the morning to exercise and meet people. I've had some conversations. Please pray for me that I can do an effective job at evangelizing there when given the opportunity!

If you see my hobbling around today it's because I got on a horse yesterday and rode at the Morrell's place. They invited us over to celebrate Charlie and Matt's birthday. We had a great time and were very appreciative of their hospitality.

One week from tomorrow is the date I fly to Brazil. So far, everything is on track. I'm looking forward to the trip. I'll have a full report when I return. Brazil is the largest Latin American country. The people there speak Portuguese, not Spanish. The city I am flying into is the 4th largest city in the world, so there are MANY people in Brazil. The size

of the country is roughly the same as the United States. I will be working with several congregations while there. My contact has me pretty much scheduled for the whole trip.

Some other things that are happening around our area are as follows. The Green Forest church of Christ is having a lectureship in the first week of October. I've been invited to speak on Monday night (October 3rd) on the subject of "The Tribulation and the Thousand Year Reign." The theme of the lectureship is Premillennialism.

On September the 26th, I've been invited to be a guest on a live Internet program called "Growing in Grace" hosted by Jonathan Jenkins. That program may be viewed that evening at 9:00 PM on your computer at <http://www.digitalbiblestudy.com>. I recommend that you visit that website if you have a computer.

So many things going on. Please pray for me and my family with all of these events.



"The Green Forest church of Christ is having a lectureship in the first week of October."

Records for the week of August 21st, 2005

Sunday Bible Class	59
Sunday AM Worship.....	72
Sunday PM Worship.....	60
Wednesday Night Study.....	48
Contribution	\$1632.37
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 prayer: Cooper Doss, Kala Grigg, Mary Gass, Bryan Guess, Huggetta Hand, Bill Jones, Florene Neal, Jimmie Tucker, Wayne Whitely, Billie Wylie.
- There will be a youth devotional tonight at the Quigley's house. All are invited to attend.
- Next Sunday night after services will be the monthly elders and deacons meeting.
- There will be a singing in Monett on September 4th.
- Please remember to check the outreach board for card assignments.
- We will have Bible study at the nursing home Thursday at 2:00.
- Please check the board for new monthly assignments.
- Please pray for the church in Costa Rica.
- Our pantry item is: Canned Chicken.

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

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:	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

August 28th, 2005 September 4th, 2005

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Ken Smith	Barrett Brown
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Leon Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Brandon Foster	Matthew Morrell
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Clay Bozarth
	Michael Morrell	Bruce Foster
(assist)	Brent Moore	Michael Morrell
	George Eddings	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	Bob Phillips	Ray Duncan

Sunday Evening

Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Phillips	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Jack Gentry	George Eddings
Lord's Table	Dale Pinkley	Brandon Foster
	Jerry Roller	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Brent Moore	Ken Smith

Wednesday

Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Dan Hand	Dale Pinkley
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Bruce Foster

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