

Berryville Bible Beacon

Volume 6, Issue 6

February 11th, 2007

Variety In Religion?

Why are there so many different churches today? When we open the Bible, they are not all there. Do all of these different religious organizations belong to Jesus Christ? The psalmist wrote that unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it, (Psalm 127:1). Jesus said that every plant the heavenly father has not planted shall be rooted up, (Matthew 15:13). We must ask ourselves if God accepts all of the religious organizations we see today. Are we allowed to pick through a variety of churches until we find one that suits our taste or lifestyle and expect God to honor that choice and welcome us with open arms?

When we look in the Bible we see that Jesus established His church, (Matthew 16:18). The church that Jesus built was important enough to Him that He died for and in so doing purchased it with His own blood, (Acts 20:28). If the church was important enough for Jesus to die for, then certainly it is important for us

today to recognize and be a part of the church we read of in the New Testament. Jesus has only one body of Christians, (1 Corinthians 12:20, Romans 12:5), and the body of Christ is the church we read of in the New Testament, (Colossians 1:24).

We can't read about all the different churches we see today in the Bible because they did not exist then. These organizations started since then by men, have their doctrinal statements, catechisms, or articles of faith written by men. Scripture plainly teaches us that those who teach the doctrines of men worship in vain, (Matthew 15:9). We are taught in scripture to "observe all things whatsoever I [Jesus] commanded," (Matthew 28:20), but to not go beyond what is written, (1 Corinthians 4:6), adding to or taking nothing away from God's word, (Revelation 22:19). So then if the teachings of men contain less than what the Bible says, they fall short and if they contain more than what the Bible says then they have gone too far. "There is a

way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death," (Proverbs 14:12). Jeremiah wrote in chapter 10:23, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps". Paul wrote in Romans 10:3, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

The Bible does not teach that we can choose from a variety of faiths tailored to suit our individual preferences. Rather we must "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," (Jude 3); the "one faith," (Ephesians 4:5), spoken of in scripture. We cannot be "carried about with every wind of doctrine," (Ephesians 4:14), rather we must "take heed" to the doctrine and continue therein, (1 Timothy 4:16), and teaching no other, (1 Timothy 1:3).

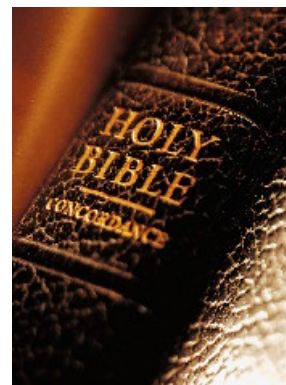
Since there is only one church and one faith it is therefore of utmost importance for us to know how

Welcome To the Berryville church of Christ

- ♦ *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!*
- ♦ **Elders:**
Clay Bozarth
Leon Duncan
Bill Fort
Bruce Foster
Glenn Quigley
- ♦ **Deacons:**
Ken Smith
Rusty Windle
- ♦ **Preacher:**
Kevin Cauley
- ♦ **Phone:**
870-423-3068
- ♦ **E-mail:** bvcoc@alltel.net
- ♦ **Address:** 909 West Trimble, Berryville AR 72616
- ♦ *We are located across highway 62 from Pizza Hut.*
- ♦ <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Bible Studies for the week of February 11th, 2007

AM Sermon	TBA
Scripture Reading	TBA
PM Sermon	TBA
Scripture Reading	TBA
Sunday Class.....	TBA
Wednesday Class.....	The Book of Proverbs
Ladies Bible Class	The Book of 2 Thessalonians
Nursing Home Bible Study	The Book of Acts



What Is Our Achilles' Heel?

Nobody is temptation-proof (cf. 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5). Even mature Christians have weaknesses in their spiritual armor that make them vulnerable to a wounding attack by the enemy of their souls (Gal. 6:1). For example, our pride can provide the very opening needed for the sharp thrust of Satan's darts (Proverbs 16:18). So can the love of money, a quick temper, a critical tongue, or chronic impatience.

What, after all, is temptation? It's any enticement to think, say, or do something contrary to God's holy will. It may be a weak impulse or a powerful urge. It's anything that's contrary to what God approves or desires for us.

The ancient Greeks told a story of a warrior named Achilles. His mother had been warned that he would die of a wound, so she dipped him as an infant in the river Styx. That was supposed to make him invincible. But she held him by one heel which the protective waters didn't cover. And it was through that heel that he received his fatal wound.

Let's ask ourselves, "What is our Achilles heel?" We need to know our weaknesses, where we could easily be wounded spiritually. Then, as we rely on the Lord for His help (Ephesians 6:10-18), we will be protected from "the fiery darts of the wicked one" (Ephesians 6:16).

Leave no unguarded place,
No weakness of the soul;
Take every virtue, every grace,
And fortify the whole. —Wesley

Mike Riley
El Paso, TX

to recognize the one true church, striving in the one true faith when we see it. There must therefore be a standard by which all of them can be gauged. That standard exists in the Bible today. We have been given "all things that pertain unto life and godliness," (2 Peter 1:3), the word of God "is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," (2 Timothy 3:16), and thoroughly furnishes us unto every good work. Since we have been given all things we need and are thoroughly furnished with the word of God, there is no need to go any further than the Bible for our instruction in righteousness. The word of God is living and eternal, (1 Peter 1:23), its relevancy is as sure and true today as it was in the first century. We can absolutely trust it as the one standard by which all things of a spiritual nature must be measured.

No man is going to stand for us on the day of Judgment. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad," (2 Corinthians 5:10). We shall each bear our own burdens, (Galatians 6:5). It is therefore every Christian's personal responsibility to make sure they are a part of the "one body," striving for the "one faith" spoken of in Ephesians 4:4-5. If we will just open our Bibles, use only it as our guide, believe what the first New Testament Christians believed and practice what the first New Testament Christians practiced, then we will be what they were; Christians. There would then be only one church and it would be the church of the New Testament; the one church Jesus died for; the church built by Christ; purchased by the blood of Christ; headed by Christ, in subjection to Christ; which is the church of Christ, (Romans 16:16).

David Hersey

The Week in Review: February 4th, 2006



Sunday Bible Class.....	NA at time of publishing.
Sunday AM Worship.....	NA
Sunday PM Worship.....	NA
Wednesday Night Study.....	NA
Contribution.....	NA
Budget.....	\$1743.39

Appreciative Giving (Part 2)

Yesterday we noted someone's statement that "When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing." What stops us from giving at times? Is it that we feel we couldn't do without? Could it be a lack of receptiveness to needs around us? Do we view others as undeserving? (Have we deserved the blessings of God?) Or is it a preference for giving only when it is noticed by others? **WHOSE EYES** do we want opened to what we give?

Note the attention Jesus stated should be sought. "(1) **BEWARE OF PRACTICING** your righteousness before other people in order **TO BE SEEN** by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. (2) Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say

to you, they have received their reward. (3) But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, (4) so that your giving may be in secret. And **YOUR FATHER WHO SEES IN SECRET WILL REWARD YOU.**" (Matthew 6:1-4)



Perhaps we could put Jesus' exhortation in terms of resisting the tendency to "blow our own horn" or "flashing the cash." Jesus stated our giving is to be ultimately for the **EYES OF GOD**. He is also the One Who will reward us for what we have given. Is our attitude right? Do we give because we

appreciate how much God has already given us? Even the smallest gifts -- such as a cup of water (Matthew 10:42) -- that meet a need will not go without their reward.

Simply because others see or know about our giving will not negate our gift unless that is what our desire is all about. May our giving be a genuine display to God that we appreciate every blessing He has granted us. God appreciates and will take note of such giving.

Have a great day **KNOWING WHAT GOD NOTICES AND REWARDS!**

Carl Hanson
Port Townsend, WA
via TeEn-MAIL

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Announcements

- Please remember in prayer:

- Next Sunday afternoon our monthly potluck is scheduled. Please come prepared.
- Mac Lyon is scheduled to speak at the Pine Mountain Jamboree Theater in Eureka Springs this coming weekend, February 16-18.
- Kevin is scheduled to fly back from Costa Rica tomorrow afternoon. Please keep him in your prayers for safe travels.
- Our pantry item is: Laundry Detergent.
- Other Announcements:

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>

Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Wed. Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM
Thursday Nursing Home Bible Study	2:00 PM

Serving Each Other

February 11th, 2007 February 18th, 2007

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Glenn Williams	Bill Fort
Preaching:	Bob Deffenbaugh	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Clay Bozarth
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Matthew Morrell
Lord's Table	Bill Fort	Glenn Quigley
	Ken Smith	Michael Morrell
(assist)	Brandon Foster	Kelly Ray Webb
	Matthew Morrell	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Rusty Windle

Sunday Evening

Songs:	Bruce Foster	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Ken Smith	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Rusty Windle
Scripture Reading:	Dan Hand	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table	Rusty Windle	Leon Duncan
	Floyd Bills	Kelly Ray Webb
Closing Prayer	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan

Wednesday

Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Rusty Windle
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Floyd Bills
Invitation:	Bill Fort	Bruce Foster
Closing Prayer:	Glenn Quigley	Brandon Foster

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