

Berryville Bible Beacon

Volume 6, Issue 11

March 18th, 2007

The Good Fight

Some battles in life are fought and instantly won; passing tests, playing games, solving a puzzle in the newspaper, or winning at a sporting event. We preoccupy ourselves with these "battles" because they give us instantaneous gratification and bring us a measure of pleasure and self assurance.

Some battles are fought for a while and won; graduating from high school or college, getting a promotion at work, achieving "retirement." We can see the need for fighting these kinds of battles because there is a significant achievement to be won at the end and once we have achieved that level, we can move on to other things, having won the battle.

There are other battles, however, that are ongoing and we will never, in this life, completely win until we conquer them in death. These battles are constant and daily efforts with which we must struggle on a regular basis. This is a hard thing for our society to accept who are ac-

customed to complex crimes being solved in a one hour TV program, sporting events ending in less than two hours, and conquering the sudoku in 30 minutes. This kind of battle is only won in the continued fighting of it; it isn't a battle that is won, never to be fought again.

It is becoming quite evident to me, that my success in weight loss is only as good as my desire to maintain that success. Months ago, I spoke with another gentleman about this and he related to me how it was a regular struggle to eat right, exercise and keep the weight off. He then said, "But it's a good fight, so I guess I'll keep on doing it." Losing weight and keeping the weight off isn't one of those battles that are won, never to be fought again. It is a constant and daily effort.

Similarly, in my police training this past fall one thing that I learned is that the law will eventually catch up to the criminal. Police activity is a constant and ongoing battle, one that never stops. It also isn't one of those bat-

ties won, never to be fought again. It is a constant and daily effort.

We need to realize that living the Christian life is the same kind of battle. If we realize and accept this, I believe we will have a great weight lifted from our shoulders. The person who is constantly telling himself, "I've got to win today!" will soon find himself hopelessly burned out with trying to achieve this task. Why? Because living the Christian life is only something that is won while we continue the struggle. Paul told Timothy, "Fight the good fight of the faith..." (1 Timothy 6:12) and wage the good battle (1 Timothy 1:18). It was a battle that Paul was only expecting Timothy to win by continuing to fight it.

Let us recognize that today we fight the battle and that our victory is in our faith on a daily basis (1 John 5:4) and through this, we will overcome, not in this life, but, in the next. For today, however, if I have struggled, then I have won.

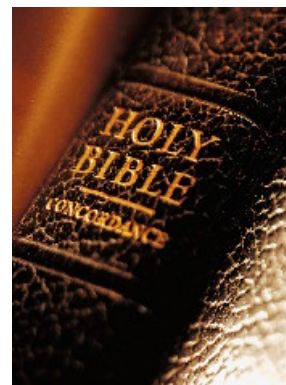
Kevin Cauley

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 March 18th, 2007

AM Sermon	“Jesus Is Lord”
Scripture Reading	John 20:26-28
PM Sermon	The Doctrine of Christ
Scripture Reading	Matthew 28:18-20
Sunday Class.....	The Book of Matthew
Wednesday Class.....	The Book of Proverbs
Ladies Bible Class	The Book of 2 Thessalonians
Nursing Home Bible Study	The Book of Acts
Home Bible Study	Devotionals from the Book of John



What Was I Thinking?

“**W**hat was I thinking?” How often have we asked ourselves that question? How many times have we said or done the wrong thing and wondered why we had not given it further thought? What our thinking is based on needs to be given serious consideration because our thoughts (or lack of thought) can quickly get us into deep trouble.

Addressing the idea of maturing in knowledge, Paul stated...

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I THOUGHT like a child, I REASONED like a child. WHEN I BECAME A MAN, I GAVE UP CHILDISH WAYS.” (1 Corinthians 13:11 ESV)

Ever tried to reason with a two year old? The truly sad thing is when such marks the life of someone later in life. Perhaps that could be a description of some of the leaders who opposed Jesus regardless of the proof presented in rela-

tionship to His Messiahship. Though we expect childish things from children, we do expect them to eventually grow up. As children move toward adulthood, childish ways are to be given up. Paul was trying to encouraging the same growth in a spiritual sense among



those at Corinth. (1 Corinthians 3:1-3) Growing up in the faith means our speaking, thinking, and reasoning should be MATURING.

Paul would later urge...
“Brothers, DO NOT BE CHILDREN IN YOUR THINKING. Be infants in evil, but IN YOUR THINKING BE MATURE.” (1

Corinthians 14:20 ESV)

Bear in mind when Paul addressed the idea of evil, he did not say to be childish, but rather be “infants” or childlike, which would seem to point to the innocence of a child. With regard to the thinking, however, they were to be MATURE.

As we consider what it is we are thinking, may we see it as becoming more and more that which is in line with “the mind of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 2:16) Growing up we become accountable for the choices we make. Therefore, let us strive to think as ones who are MATURING in Christ.

Have a great day GROWING UP IN THE LORD!

Carl Hanson
Port Townsend, WA
via teEn-MAIL
<http://www.the-churchofchrist.com/teenmail>

The Week in Review: March 11th, 2007



Sunday Bible Class.....	42
Sunday AM Worship.....	58
Sunday PM Worship.....	59
Wednesday Night Study.....	47
Contribution.....	\$1616.51
Budget.....	\$1743.39

Kevin's Korner

School was largely in our thoughts and prayers this past week as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills was administered to several of the grades, including 3rd and 5th. We reminded the boys each morning to focus and do well as these tests are used as an indicator for the school system. There is a lot of pressure put on teachers and administration for these tests because so much of our government funding is based upon how these tests go. And whether one disagrees with those policies or not, they are a reality and so it's always best to try to do one's best given the circumstances one is in. Therein lies a great lesson in and of itself!

Today we will be taking up a special contribution for the Alajuelita church in Costa Rica. This congregation has only been in existence for a little over a year and already has around 40 members, but it is in a very impoverished area. Nevertheless, the church is

doing a great work there bringing the gospel to the poor. They have worked very hard to purchase their own land and build their own building. Every single penny of their contribution goes into paying for this land at the present time and they have done an admirable job. The location of the land was chosen for the proximity to the community in which they work as well as the good land prices. However, because of these factors the building was constructed on the side of a mountain where heavy rains have the potential to disrupt their work. In order to prevent this, they need to do some excavation work and build a retaining wall. This is what our special contribution will be for this morning. This is a one time request from this congregation to get them firmly established in this area so that they can continue the spiritual work that they have well begun. Please make out a special check marked "Alajuelita" if you wish to help in this effort. Thank

you so much for your love and concern for the work of teaching the gospel in Costa Rica.

On a personal note, our new furniture arrived yesterday and thanks to the help of brother David HERSHEY (our beloved "Powderman") we were able to pick it up and move it in. We enjoyed a few moments yesterday with David, his son, David, his daughter, Torey, and his house keeper, Mysty. They are great friends of ours and we really do appreciate their help and support. If you get a chance this week, please feel free to come by and see the furniture as well as the improvements that we have made to the house over the past few weeks. It definitely looks different.

Also, don't forget that we will have a home Bible study at our house tomorrow (Monday) night at 7:00 PM. If you have a friend that you would like to introduce to the church, this is a great way to do it! Just let us know.

Announcements

- Please remember in prayer: Maritza Avila, Elizabeth Bills, Opal Hull, JoAnn Sanderlin, Bonnie Thetford, Bill Webb.
- Travelling: Lois Bales, Bill and Lucille Fort, Crystal Hess, Bill and Nancy Silvers.
- Our monthly potluck is today after our morning service. All are invited to stay and to have a meal with us downstairs in our basement.
- We have a special contribution today for the church in Alajuelita. Please remember this need as you give this morning.
- If you are visiting with us, we have home Bible studies every Monday evening (7:00) at the preacher's house. Please see one of our members about this opportunity for spiritual growth! New members and new Christians also may want to take advantage of this time as well.
- We had a great birthday party this pasty Wednesday night put on by Ervin Hand for brother Dan Hand, his son. Dan turned 60. If you missed it, then you really missed something special!
- Our pantry item is: Trash Bags.
- God bless you!

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

March 18th, 2007 **March 25th, 2007**

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Glenn Williams	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Matthew Morrell	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table	George Eddings	Michael Morrell
	Rusty Windle	John Gass
(assist)	Benjamin Windle	Ray Duncan
	Brandon Foster	Perry Foster
Closing Prayer	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle

Sunday Evening

Songs:	Bruce Foster	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Ken Smith
Scripture Reading:	Matthew Morrell	Bruce Foster
Lord's Table	John Gass	Dale Pinkley
	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Dale Pinkley	Ervin Hand

Wednesday

Songs:	Rusty Windle	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Glenn Williams
Invitation:	Kevin Cauley	Dan Hand
Closing Prayer:	Perry Foster	Matthew Morrell

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