

Berryville Bible Beacon

Volume 6, Issue 15

April 15th, 2007

Acceptable Faith

The Bible defines faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Simply stated this means that faith is the foundation of our hope and a conviction in our hearts of things we cannot see. In fact, the words “faith” and “belief” are from the same original root word in the Greek New Testament—*pistis*, a noun that has to do with being convinced of something.

Hebrews 11:6 teaches that it is impossible to please God without faith, of which there are two types recognized in Scripture: (1) there is intellectual faith (“the devils also believe and tremble,” James 2:19), and then (2) there is functional faith (“Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works,” James 2:18). In other words, acceptable faith is not simply one’s assent to revealed truth, but his absolute submission to the guidance and control of that truth, something that starts and

ends with bringing “into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

An active (functional) faith attitude is that which generates unconditional obedience to the higher authority of the God-head. Anything less puts one’s faith in the category described by James as “dead” (James 2:20). The believing devils spoken of by James did not have an



obedient faith, rendering it unacceptable, and Jude 6 teaches that they, through their disobedience to God, “kept not [deserted] their first estate [proper dwelling place],” resulting in their placement “in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” James used those insubordinate devils as an example of what lies in store for those who have faith but have

not added works (obedience) to their lives. The concept of an obedient, working faith is soundly supported by Scripture. Paul began and ended the book of Romans with the idea of “the obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5 & 16:26). The same apostle once spoke of the Thessalonians’ great “work of faith” (1 Thessalonians 1:3 and 2 Thessalonians 1:11). Jesus Himself stated that belief (faith) itself is a work: “This is the work of God, that ye believe.” (John 6:29).”The whole purpose of James chapter two is that “faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone” (James 2:17); “and by works was faith made perfect” (2:22); and “as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (2:26). Incidentally, all that is meant by “works” is obedience, so one can easily understand this principle by simply substituting the word “works” with the word “obedience.”

Hebrews chapter eleven, sometimes called God’s

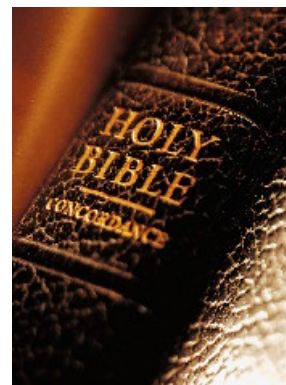
Welcome To the Berryville church of Christ

- ♦ *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>

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Bible Studies for the week of April 15th, 2007

AM Sermon	Be Not Weary in Well Doing
Scripture Reading	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
PM Sermon	Studies in Genesis—Sodom and Gomorrah
Scripture Reading	Genesis 18:16-22
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



(Continued from page 1)

Hall of Faith, lists a number of individuals who perfected their faith through the works of obedience. Moved by conviction in their hearts, each and every one of them worked God's will towards a faith that was validated by their efforts, leaving examples for God's people of all time to follow.

Faith is absolutely necessary for our salvation, (Hebrews 11:6). But, it is a comprehensive term which includes many things. Belief is faith assenting; repentance is faith turning; Confession is faith speaking; baptism is faith submitting; the Christian life is faith rejoicing. Therefore faith is inextricably linked to obedience. One cannot have either belief or obedience alone and live a pleasing life before God. Acceptable Faith is the product of belief AND obedience.

David Hersey
Granby, MO

Attention Getter

Have you ever noticed when in a crowded mall or even a crowded room that when the cry "Mommy" is heard that most of the women will turn toward the direction from which the cry came? It seems the attention of even the mommies who no longer have small children are still responsive to the name. Motherhood is special. I believe there are things experienced by mommies that men may never fully understand. The name "Mommy" is sweet and can easily bring a smile to the faces of those who hear it. And because of the special bond between mother and child the name "Mommy" may never lose the tug at the heart and the power to turn the head.

After referring to the servant heart of Jesus and His willing obedience to the plan that brought about our salvation through His blood shed on the cross, Paul went on to state...

"(9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, (10) so that AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, in heaven and on earth and

under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11 ESV)

"JESUS!" THE NAME that is exalted above all names. THE NAME that should tug at our heart. THE NAME that should always turn our attention toward Him. THE NAME to which every knee should bow." "JESUS!" Doesn't THE NAME have a sweetness to its sound? Isn't it easily spoken with a smile? May the bond between us and "JESUS" made possible through the power of His blood never lose the power to draw our heart and head toward Him.

Have a great day ACKNOWLEDGING BY LIFE THE EXALTED NAME OF JESUS!

Carl Hanson
Port Townsend, WA
via teEn-MAIL

<http://the-churchofchrist.com/teenmail>

The Week in Review: April 8th, 2007



Sunday Bible Class.....	71
Sunday AM Worship.....	90
Sunday PM Worship.....	63
Wednesday Night Study.....	48
Contribution.....	\$1737.50
Budget.....	\$1743.39

Kevin's Korner—In The News

There were several news stories this past week which I thought were of interest. So, here are some my thoughts associated with these items.

Radio talk show host Don Imus this past week opened his mouth and once again insulted some members of our society with his offensive language. There's no point in repeating the offending comments here. I've listened to his talk show before and it was not out of character. The only surprising thing was that he wasn't confronted sooner about his offensive speech. Why wasn't he? We have a segment of society that doesn't apply the standard of right and wrong equally. They are eager to apply such standards stringently to their political opponents. However, when it comes to one of their own, they frequently look the other way. Don Imus was certainly part of the politically correct crowd. He supported the right liberal doctrines in his talk show and so his offensiveness was overlooked. In the final analysis, however, when Don Imus stopped serving their interests, he was hung out to dry. Yes, there is

a double-standard for the political left and it all depends upon how big a fish you are in the political pond, how much you contribute to the left's agenda, and whether your ethic origins are of the right sort. James (2:1) teaches, "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons."

Will our society learn that offensive speech isn't just about one man, but about objective right and wrong? There are many so called "artists" who frequently use similar type language in their various mediums. Where is the cultural outrage over their products? In our daily life men and women frequently bandy about such language as to make a self-respecting sailor blush. Do we find this offensive? Where is the backlash for such speech? It is sadly missing and as a result our society continues to degrade to the lowest common denominator of depravity in the name of "freedom of speech." The truth is that true freedom must be limited by morality or no one is free. Benjamin Franklin said, "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom." Jesus says,

"Whoever sins is the slave of sin" (John 8:34).

The trial of Mary Winkler began this past week in Tennessee. This followed an announcement the week before that Matthew Winkler's family had filed a law suit against Mary for the wrongful death of the children's father. Court TV is covering the trial. Mary Winkler's lawyers opened with the argument that Matthew was abusive and the whole thing was a big accident as Mary was seeking to defend herself and her children. The prosecutors opened with the argument that the couple had had money problems and that this was what precipitated Matthew's death. The whole event is a sad state of affairs. We should continue to pray for these families.

Also of interest, former Senator Fred Thompson was included in an AFA straw poll for President this past week and came out as the front runner among Republican candidates. Sen. Thompson, responding to James Dobson recently, said that he was baptized into the church of Christ. Thompson, a recognized character actor, is 64 years old.

Announcements

- Please remember in prayer: Marie Adams, JoAnn Bragg, Edna Brewer, Maxine Campbell, Sue Davis, Opal Hull, Florene Neal, Janice Keck, Jerry Roller, Rick Steingeryer, Bill Webb.
- Today is our monthly potluck luncheon. Our visitors are invited to stay and have a meal with us and enjoy the company of one another.
- Moises Umana will be traveling to Berryville to meet with the elders as we plan for the new preacher training school that we will be starting in Coronado. Please pray for his travels and these efforts.
- The last Sunday of this month is a fifth Sunday which means we will be singing at the nursing home. Please make your plans to be with us.
- Please be making your plans to be with us on Friends and Family day which is scheduled for June 3rd this year. There are flyers in the back for you to hand out.
- Our pantry item is: Laundry Detergent.

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

April 15th, 2007

April 22nd, 2007

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Bill Fort	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Matthew Morrell	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Bill Fort
	Ken Smith	Rusty Windle
(assist)	Benjamin Windle	Matthew Morrell
	Michael Morrell	Ervin Hand
Closing Prayer	George Eddings	Glenn Quigley

Sunday Evening

Songs:	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Glenn Williams
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Dan Hand
Lord's Table	Michael Morrell	Leon Duncan
	Brandon Foster	Clay Bozarth
Closing Prayer	Ervin Hand	Bill Fort

Wednesday

Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Bill Fort	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Kevin Cauley	Dan Hand

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