

Berryville Bible Beacon

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October 21st, 2007

The Christian System and Government Healthcare (part 2)

There aren't any scriptures, however, where New Testament church leaders expected the government to relieve them. Such thinking is conspicuously absent from the New Testament. The role of government from a Christian perspective is simply to punish evildoers and praise those who do well (1 Peter 2:14). The vast majority of passages that mention the Christians' interaction with the government speak of the Christian monetarily supporting the government, not vice versa. See Matthew 22:21, Mark 12:17, Luke 20:25, Romans 13:6-7, and 1 Peter 2:17. It is extraordinarily out of context to suggest that some government entitlement program is "Christian."

Moreover, such government programs may be contrary to Christianity. Being a Christian is about bettering one's self. Christians are individuals who have been converted from a life of sin and pledged to a life of righteousness (Romans 6:12-18). Such requires per-

sonal sacrifices and efforts. Christianity is about living for Christ on a daily basis (Galatians 2:20). For the government to step in and supply what the Christian is supposed to provide for himself undermines the genius of the call of the Christian religion for personal sacrifice (Philippians 2:17, 4:18).

Such governmental programs also supplant the



benevolent arm of the church in her mission to edify the saints and evangelize the lost. If the religion-neutral government takes upon itself the task of caring for the poor, who among the poor will turn to the church for aid? That was one of the great reasons why the church grew in the first century. The poor saw the church as a place where they could receive legitimate

help. Such help could also be appropriately regulated by the church. The balance is evident when properly considered. The church isn't merely a benevolent society because there are some conditions for aid. The poor aren't simply receiving unconditional handouts because they are exhorted to change their lives for the better so that they too can help others (Ephesians 4:28).

Such does not mean that the Christian may not accept any help whatsoever in times of difficulty or due to economic circumstances beyond his control. However, it isn't a God-less uncaring bureaucracy that is providing the aid. It is a loving and caring family that has the best interests of the recipient at heart.

What is the answer? It is counter productive to morality for the government to become a charitable aid society. We've seen this to be true in the failed welfare system of the two previous decades. At the

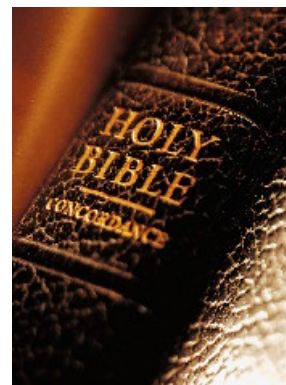
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Welcome To the Berryville church of Christ

- ♦ *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 October 21st, 2007

AM Sermon	The Sixth Commandment—Thou Shalt Not Murder
Scripture Reading	Exodus 20:1-17
PM Sermon	Report On Internet Work
Scripture Reading	Matthew 28:18-20
Sunday Class.....	Guest Speaker: Eddie Cloer
Wednesday Class.....	Sharing the Abundant Life
Nursing Home Bible Study.....	The Book of Acts



(Continued from page 1)

same time, it isn't unreasonable for government to help families who are contributing to society when their families and the church don't have the resources to help. In that regard, Christianity doesn't favor broadly and indiscriminately placing well-paid working families on the roles of government health care. Such families can provide for their own needs (1 Timothy 5:8). Failure to do so would be an act of infidelity to Christ. Christianity, would not, however, reject conditional and limited governmental help to families who are in challenging economic circumstances. Such is still not ideal because such families receive no remedial education for what got them into such circumstances to begin with (i.e. crime, immorality, neglectfulness, laziness, etc.). Only the church can provide solutions in this area.

Kevin Cauley

(Editor's note: this article in its entirety was published this past week in a local paper, The Patriot's Herald. I have a few copies of this paper in my office if you are interested. As an additional note, President Bush's veto of the SCHIP bill was not overridden by the House of Representatives this past week.)

Balance

Every profession, no matter what it is, has its distinct nuances that can only be understood by those in that profession...

For instance, I could not begin to comprehend the daily trails of an accountant, a doctor, or a farmer. But put two accountants in a room, two doctors, or two farmers and they could talk and understand each other even though they had never before met. Preaching is no different. There are daily and weekly challenges to preaching that many may not understand, but put two preachers in a room together, and it won't take long for them to find "common ground."

This past month, I sat talked with a fellow preacher who expressed several concerns and challenges that he was facing. To say that I could relate is an understatement. This article shares with you a small peek into some of the challenges to the job of preaching.

THE CHALLENGE OF BALANCE

From time to time, a preacher will hear complaints that range from, "We're hearing too many fundamen-

tals," "We want more doctrinal, in-depth studies," or "We need more preaching that is practical, daily living advice." Before you complain that the preaching isn't meeting your needs, understand that you are not a congregation of one! There are other people sitting in the pews on any given Sunday who have diversely different needs, and who are wanting to be fed. How does a preacher meet the needs of a recently divorced woman who is seeking strength to go on after being betrayed. Next to her is a new Christian who needs to be grounded in the fundamentals of the faith, and on the next pew there is the mature Bible student who is seeking for the deep treasures of God's word? It is impossible for everyone to have their desires met to the level of their own satisfaction every week. Every congregation consists of those who need meat and those who need milk. In order for unity to prevail, patience must be practiced by every believer, and balance must be the pursuit of every preacher.

Steve Higginbotham
via KneEmail
www.forthright.net/kneemail

The Week in Review: October 14th, 2007



Sunday Bible Class.....	55
Sunday AM Worship.....	66
Sunday PM Worship.....	55
Wednesday Night Study.....	44
Contribution.....	\$1488.24
Budget.....	\$1743.39

Kevin's Korner

Wasn't the gospel meeting with had this past week just great! You really missed something special if you didn't make it to each lesson that was presented.

Brother Walter Buchanan did a great job in exposing God's word to us. We thank him for his efforts that he made in being with us. If you would like a CD copy of the brother Buchanan's sermons this past week, please let me know and I'll try to make them this week for you.

It was enjoyable to go visiting with him this past week to sister Wilma Morris' house as well as to the Fullers' house. The Fullers recently moved into town and are long time members of the church of Christ. They reside at 104b Magnolia. They could use some assistance in getting to and from services. I'm sure we have a few that would like to aid in that regard. Why not meet them Sunday and see if you can help?

We are about to come upon a milestone at the nursing home. We'll be finished with studying the book of Acts and move into the book of Romans. A few years ago we started

studying through the New Testament one chapter a week. We've made it through the four gospel accounts and, Lord willing, Thursday we'll be finished with the book of Acts. It is a wonderful blessing to be able to study with them each week.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a computer class at the Berryville community center. I'll be hosting another one this Tuesday. These classes are free to the public. Anyone may come in and sit in on the class. If you have some computer questions you'd like to have answered come on by Tuesday evening at 6:30 at the Berryville community center.

Some of you have asked about our family situation. Mary Lynn's pregnancy is coming along fine. We went to visit the doctor this past Monday and everything was normal. The baby's heartbeat was 175 beats per minute. We will have our second sonogram at 22 weeks where we hope to learn the sex of the baby.

Last Saturday we went down to Malvern, Arkansas for a lectureship. We saw my in-laws there, Foy and Mary. As you know, Mary has Lou Gehrig's

Disease or ALS as it is referred to medically. ALS stands for "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis." This is a disease that attacks motor neurons and also degenerates the brain and spinal cord. Mary can still walk somewhat, but she was using a wheel chair for most of her getting around at the lectureship which was held at Camp Couchdale. Camp Couchdale is a beautiful place and they had some wonderful facilities.

I also got to see an old school mate that I hadn't visited with for at least a dozen or more years. Brother Tyler Young is the preacher in Hattisburg, Mississippi and he spoke on this program. He was also holding a gospel meeting for the congregation at Malvern this past week. It was good to be reunited with him if but for a few moments.

With all of the traveling that I had done in the past couple of months, I decided it was time to get my oil changed on the car. I pulled into the Wal-Mart lube center this past week and lo and behold, the oil didn't even register on the indicator stick. I guess it WAS TIME.

Announcements

- Please remember in prayer: Sylvia Anderson, Shane Blackston, Glenda Chamberlin, Mary Forehand, Opal Hull, Wilma Morris, Florene Neal, Bill Webb and Vaughn Farmer's mother-in-law, Ruth.
- Please remember Perry Foster and Monte Wolfenbarger who are in the military and serving or soon to serve in Iraq.
- There will be a costume party at the Windle's house on Friday, October 26th. Listen to the announcements for more details!
- The ladies are planning a special day for Saturday, November 10th. This special day will be at the ceramic shop in Bentonville. Please see Tiffany Windle or Rhonda Ray for details and a head count.
- There are several spiritual events being hosted in our area. Many are posted on the back bulletin board. Please see that area for additional details.
- Our pantry item is: Pancake Mix.

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:13)

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

October 21st, 2007 October 28th, 2007

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Ken Smith	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Leon Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Leon Duncan	Jerry Roller
Lord's Table	Dan Hand	John Gass
	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
(assist)	John Gass	Ray Duncan
	Matt Morrell	Austin Cauley
		Bill Fort

Closing Prayer

Sunday Evening

Songs:	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Floyd Bills	Bruce Foster
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley
	Benjamin Windle	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Brandon Foster

Wednesday

Songs:	Ken Smith	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Dan Hand
Invitation:	Walter Buchanan	Bruce Foster
Closing Prayer:	George Eddings	Ray Duncan

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