

# Berryville Bible Beacon

Volume 6, Issue 47

December 9th, 2007

## Losing Our Identity?

**W**e hear a lot today about identity theft. Unscrupulous fellows have found ways to discover the social security numbers, addresses, names, dates of birth, and other information related to one's identity and used such things for nefarious purposes. In some cases individuals have become indebted overnight for cars, motor homes, and real estate because they lost control of their unique financial identity.

Psychologists also like to talk about identity. They're referring to individualism or uniqueness. When one's sense of purpose evaporates like the morning mist, they "don't know who they are anymore" and they seek help to rediscover their identity.

Not too many years ago, a gospel preacher said that the churches of Christ were in an identity crisis. He said that we were going to have to change our identity if we wanted to be relevant in the modern world. To be fair, there are some cultural things

within the church that may change as the culture changes. Architecture styles change over time; technology changes; fashion changes; the way the culture does business may change. On the other hand, there are some things which must never change if we are to maintain our identity as the church of Christ. Let's consider a few of those things.



First, we must not change our worship. I'm not talking about what song book we use, the order of the activities, or whether we use Power Point or not. I'm talking about our actions in worship: prayer (1 Timothy 2:8), singing (Ephesians 5:19, Hebrews 13:15), hearing/studying God's word (2 Timothy 2:15), giving (2 Corinthians 8-9), and observing the Lord's Supper every

first day of the week (Acts 20:7). This includes respecting God's roles of authority for men and women in worship as well (1 Timothy 2:8ff). How we worship affects our relationship with God as His people because God demands those who worship Him to do so in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). The churches of Christ are unique in their worship and that uniqueness defines our identity.

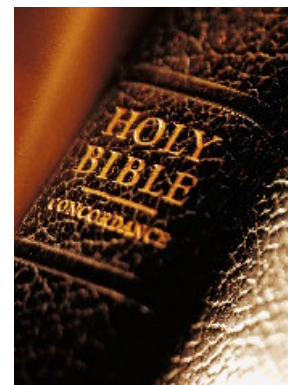
Second, we must not change God's plan of salvation. Some in "Christendom" have gone so far as to say that even faith in Christ isn't necessary for salvation. Some teach that faith alone is necessary even rejecting repentance. Most believe that baptism is not necessary for salvation. The Bible clearly teaches, however, that baptism is prerequisite to salvation (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:1-11, Colossians 2:11-13, Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21). Hebrews 5:9 teaches that obedience is as much a part of God's plan for man's salvation as any-

### 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](mailto: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 December 9th, 2007

AM Sermon .....	Conversion Accounts—The Three Thousand
Scripture Reading .....	Acts 2:1-4
PM Sermon .....	Studies in Daniel—God’s Predictions
Scripture Reading .....	Daniel 7:1-7
Sunday Class.....	The Book of Matthew
Wednesday Class.....	Sharing the Abundant Life
Nursing Home Bible Study.....	The Book of Acts



## Losing our Identity, cont.

thing else. We must not change our teaching regarding the necessity of baptism in God's plan for man's salvation.

Third, we must not change what the Bible teaches regarding the church. The church is a necessary institution for which Jesus died and shed His blood (Acts 20:28). There is only one body (Ephesians 4:4) which is the church and Christ is its head (Ephesians 1:22-23). It is not a body composed of many bodies (1 Corinthians 1:10-13). It has for leadership elders which is to say, shepherds (pastors) and bishops. These men are appointed based upon the scriptural qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The churches of the New Testament are also always represented as having a plural number of these governors, not just one. If how the local church is governed is simply a matter of opinion then anything goes in the church. We must not change God's pattern for the organization of the church.

Fourth, we must not change what the Bible teaches regarding morality. "Christendom" has already abandoned Bible teaching on the above subjects

and now we are seeing it abandon Bible morality as well. We must not change God's teaching on marriage, divorce, and remarriage (Matthew 19:6, 9). We must not change God's teaching regarding sexuality. We must not change God's teaching regarding pure speech and godly living. The doctrine of once saved, always saved has wreaked terrible havoc in the church. We must be faithful to the Lord and to His church in order to be saved (Revelation 2:10). We must withdraw from those who refuse to live faithfully (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

Some churches of Christ are experiencing an identity crisis because they have compromised on exactly these things. It just goes to show that we only have an identity crisis inasmuch as we lack desire to allow the Bible to rule. If we don't know who we are then we haven't been studying The Book. Identity crises come from knowledge crises and God's word tells us that lack of knowledge destroys (Hosea 4:6). Let us be zealous, study, and apply what we learn faithfully so that we may maintain our identity as the church of Christ.

Kevin Cauley

## Psalm 33:12-22

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.

From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.

There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.

An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.

For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

---

## The Week in Review: December 2nd, 2007



Sunday Bible Class.....	56
Sunday AM Worship.....	NA
Sunday PM Worship.....	38
Wednesday Night Study.....	42
Contribution.....	\$1910.30
Budget.....	\$1743.39

---

### Kevin's Korner—Culture Wars

**T**he movie, “The Golden Compass” opened this weekend. I’m not usually one to talk about movies in the bulletin, but this particular movie has some background to it of which we should all be aware. It is a film based upon a series of books written by an atheist. At the end of this series of books, the author encourages the reader to “kill God.” My understanding is that this movie has been “dumbed down” so that the average viewer likely wouldn’t be able to discern the hidden meanings the author intended. Movies, however, often market books and this is a series of books we shouldn’t be unaware of in the culture wars.

A study that came out recently suggested that people who wait until their 20s to have sex for the first time are more likely to experience sexual performance problems when they get older. The result of the study seems to be encouraging teens and others to have sex before marriage. The study didn’t mention the tremendous risks that the unmarried take when they have sex such as unwanted pregnancy, venereal disease, and psycho-

logical problems. That doesn’t seem to matter to those who are only interested in encouraging the unmarried to have sex regardless the consequences. The risks for having premarital sex still far outweigh the benefits. According to the Bible, marriage is still the divinely approved place for sexual relationships; now there’s a study that’s been proved for thousands of years.

Speaking of marriage, environmentalists have made some interesting reports on the subject recently. Evidently, rising divorce rates are bad for the environment. Divorces take one household and create two thus doubling the requirements for energy, water, and land. So, stay married and be friendly to the environment!

Since the passage of California State bill SB 777, many parents are evidently taking their children out of public school and putting them in private school or home schooling them. SB 777 requires public schools to portray homosexuality, bisexuality, and transsexuality in a positive way. Requests for home schooling packets have been significantly up in California and enrollment in private schools

are also on the rise. Our culture appears to be becoming more and more polarized as secularists continue to shape amoral public policy.

Why are we so concerned about sexual problems in society and promoting God’s standards of right and wrong? History shows that when sexual standards become loose or non-existent, that society as a whole degenerates. The greatest societies that ever existed had strict moral standards regarding sexuality. It was against the law in the Republic of Rome to commit adultery. The founding fathers of this nation had strong Victorian values regarding sexuality. As we look at the history of God’s people in the Old Testament, loose sexual standards was associated with idolatry and societal destruction. When those standards were respected, God’s people flourished. Societies may change, but people do not; what makes us think that we are so much better than the societies of the past? “Hubris” is the only word fit to describe the nation that forgets the past and fails to learn from it in this regard.

Kevin Cauley

## Announcements

- Please remember in prayer: Cassy Chaney, Mary Forehand, Trish Foster, Carolyn Gains, Bill Silvers.
- Shut in: Opal Hull, Wilma Morris.
- Next Sunday there will be a visiting preacher who is applying for the opening here at Berryville. Mitch Rhymer and his family currently live in Tupelo, MS. Please be prepared to meet and get to know him and his family.
- Our monthly potluck is scheduled for next Sunday.
- Rusty Windle is looking to update the "who does what" assignment cards. Please fill out one of these cards and turn it in to him.
- December 17th through 21st, the Cauley family will be traveling to Austin to make final arrangements for their move. Please remember them in prayer as they travel.
- There is a special letter from Mary Forehand posted on the bulletin board in the back. It is in reference to helping the MDA raise money for ALS research. Please read it if you are able.
- Our pantry item is: Toothpaste.

## 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

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

## Serving Each Other

	<b>Dec. 9th, 2007</b>	<b>Dec. 16th, 2007</b>
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Bill Fort	Ken Smith
<b>Preaching:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Mitch Rhymer
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Rusty Windle	Ervin Hand
<b>Scripture Reading:</b>	Benjamin Windle	Ray Duncan
<b>Lord's Table</b>	Dale Pinkley	Dan Hand
	Michael Morrell	John Gass
<b>(assist)</b>	Floyd Bills	Jerry Roller
	Matthew Morrell	Brandon Foster
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dan Hand	Clay Bozarth
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
<b>Preaching:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Mitch Rhymer
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Dan Hand	Leon Duncan
<b>Scripture Reading:</b>	Ray Duncan	Benjamin Windle
<b>Lord's Table</b>	Dale Pinkley	Clay Bozarth
	George Eddings	Michael Morrell
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ray Duncan	Ervin Hand
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Rusty Windle
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Glenn Quigley	Ray Duncan
<b>Invitation:</b>	Leon Duncan	Kevin Cauley
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Kevin Cauley	George Eddings

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.