

Berryville Bible Beacon

Volume 6, Issue 48
December 16th, 2007

Why Be Faithful?

When the Christian looks at the world around him, what does he see? I think that by and large he sees happy people going about their business seemingly content even though they largely aren't practicing Christians or even Christians at all. Of course, there is no way for us to know what is going on inside someone else's head and also a large part of how we see the world depends upon our current mentality as well. Faithful Christians are largely happy and content people and so they tend to see that same trait in others whether it is actually there or not. Without analyzing all of these things, however, it is easy for the Christian to think, "Why should I be faithful when everyone around me is irreligious and seemingly happy and content?" It's a question that goes through every one of our heads from time to time, so let's answer it.

I should be faithful because sin is destructive. The only other choice than faithfulness is unfaithfulness. To be unfaithful means that I give myself

over to sin of one sort or another. Sin is both addictive and destructive. Both Jesus and Paul said that those who sin become sin's servants (John 8:34, Romans 6:16). Those who sin without regret will do so repeatedly; it just becomes easier and easier to do so and eventually it will catch up with you. We read of such situations in the newspapers regularly with some government employee who was careless with his email; he gets caught and then goes to jail. Such happens frequently in the private world also, it just doesn't grab headlines as readily. Of course, ultimately sin destroys the soul; "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Sin destroys; therefore, we should be faithful.

The time was when the CIA would not hire a man who had committed adultery because that proved he could not be faithful to the most important of matters; if he couldn't be faithful to his spouse, then how could he be faithful to his country? Faithfulness is a quality in and of itself that is of value. The Bible says that God is faithful (Hebrews 10:23);

it is one of God's attributes, like love. If we desire to be God-like in our life, then let's be faithful.

Finally, faithfulness is our only hope. There have been times when I've been tempted to give it all up. (I suppose that everyone faces this temptation at one time or another.) What kept me from doing that? What hope would I have if I quit my faith? There is no other hope; no other religion has a hope like the hope found in Christ. The Bible teaches that hope motivates us to faithful living. John speaks about being like Christ in 1 John 3:2; he then says in verse 3, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." If we have hope in Christ, then let us keep our lives pure and be faithful to the end. The crown of life is promised to those who are faithful (1 Corinthians 9:25, 2 Timothy 4:8, Revelation 2:10).

Why be faithful? Be faithful to avoid a life of sin. Be faithful to be like God. Be faithful to maintain hope and inherit the crown of life.

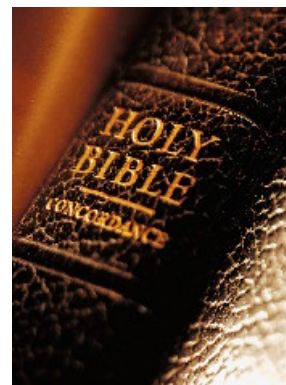
Kevin Cauley

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 December 16th, 2007

AM Sermon	TBA
Scripture Reading	TBA
PM Sermon	TBA
Scripture Reading	TBA
Sunday Class.....	TBA
Wednesday Class.....	Sharing the Abundant Life
Nursing Home Bible Study	The Book of Romans



Before Complaining

Some are quick to complain. When things are not going well the first response is sometimes to look for someone to blame. Surely it must be someone's fault. However, how many times might that someone be closer than we think. Perhaps we would do well to begin with some SELF-EXAMINATION before we look elsewhere!

During the time of Jeremiah, the disobedience of God's people was great. Still they wondered why God was not blessing them. What they failed to acknowledge was their own unrepentant attitude and rebellion that had left them without God's forgiveness. (Lamentations 3:42)

Jeremiah wrote. "Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins? LET US TEST AND EXAMINE OUR WAYS, AND RETURN TO THE LORD!" (Lamentations 3:39-40 ESV)

Why should we complain about what our choices may have brought to us? Why should we blame another -- even becoming angry with God as some do

(Proverbs 19:3) -- when the results of having ignored His Way are experienced? God is righteous. He is just. He will allow us to feel the effects of our choices. However, His ultimate desire is for us to acknowledge our error and turn back toward Him; returning to the Lord, as Jeremiah stated.

Note David's desire as he focused on his relationship with God. "SEARCH ME, O God, and KNOW MY HEART! TRY ME and KNOW MY THOUGHTS! (24) And see if there be any grievous way in me, and LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVER-LASTING!" (Psalm 139:23-24 ESV)

It is for our benefit that we be open to such in our relationship with God. Let us not complain at God, but instead do some soul-searching to determine where our life needs to be placed back on track with His Will. Maintaining a genuine penitent spirit and openness to God's direction will continue to bring His blessing. May we be as eager to respond to Him as He is to us.

Have a great day FOLLOWING IN THE WAY EVERLASTING!

Carl Hanson, teen-MAIL

Have You Ever Stopped . . .

Have you ever stopped to consider,
For a long life here we'll strive,
We'll do most anything it takes,
To keep ourselves alive?

There's nothing wrong at all in this,
We should thank God every day,
But we need to know this earthly life,
As a flower will fade away.

We also need to see this life,
As really a very short span.
We need to know its like a vapor,
This life of mortal man.

But there's another life to live,
And God has shown the way.
For the faithful it's eternal life,
The land of endless day.

It's sad to know of another way,
Where Satan and his angels will dwell,
And those who follow the way he leads,
Will know a life in hell.

-Wilma Morris

The Week in Review: December 9th, 2007



Sunday Bible Class.....	48
Sunday AM Worship.....	55
Sunday PM Worship.....	41
Wednesday Night Study.....	44
Contribution.....	\$1189.71
Budget.....	\$1743.39

Kevin's Korner

The boxes continue to pile up as we clean out the closets and rooms of all of our personal belongings. One wouldn't think that there would be that much stuff in a single modestly sized house, but I suppose that we are good at ferreting things away into the cracks and corners of our lives. Several things that we have been missing have been discovered in the process. I now have a nice sized baggie full of batteries of which I know not whether they work or not. (I guess I need to run by radio shack and get one of those battery testers.)

We've also seen the end of several games and puzzles whose pieces have been scattered to the four corners of the earth through some misfortune or another. Oddly enough, I also have a bag of old game parts and pieces; that's for when I end up buying a replacement for the game that I threw out as will eventually happen. I think we've had several sets of "Hungry Hippos" and also "Trouble."

I was very grateful to hear that the old clothing and toys we had left over from the garage sale were taken by a children's home up in Missouri. The

children's home in Arkansas that we support doesn't accept such things on a regular basis, but the church in Shell Knob has a good relationship with a home in Missouri that accepts such donations frequently, from what I understand. I was glad that those items could go somewhere where they could still be useful to someone.

I think I've mentioned before how we live in a throw away society. Our parents and grandparents didn't know the meaning of something that wasn't useful. Even some of our members today still have that mentality. "It can always be used for something" is an expression that originated out of hard times and difficult circumstances.

Even when visiting foreign countries, you find individuals picking up scrap pieces of copper, tin, and aluminum because somewhere they can make some money off of them. In general, our society doesn't believe that any more. The other day I went to the bank and they counted over \$20 of pennies I had collected from saving my change. The lady at the counter said that she just "throws them away." Pennies are meaningless to her; they have no value to her.

It is one thing to be careless about one's physical possessions; it is quite a different matter, however, when it comes to the value of the human soul. Many attitudes that people have about physical possessions have been erected upon people. If we can throw away a battery, we can throw away a wife, or, God forbid, a child. That seems to be how many people think whether they realize it or not. The greatest challenge that we face in our society is getting people to care about one another in the way that God cares about us. Are we up for that challenge?

Jesus said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). There is nothing more valuable than the soul of our fellow man. Do we believe that? Do we practice that? God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross to redeem those souls from sin. That's how much God loves man. What have we done today to show our love for our fellow man?

Kevin Cauley

Announcements

- Please remember in prayer: Mary Forehand, Pat Foster, Trish Foster, Pat Quigley, Marjorie Robinson, Nancy Silvers, Susan Waltkes, Loretta Williams.
- Opal Hull and Wilma Morris continue to remain shut in at this time.
- Our monthly potluck is today. We invite all of our guests to stay and eat lunch with us.
- We have a guest preacher trying out for the job opening here in Berryville today. Brother Mitch Rhymer and his family are here from Mississippi. Please welcome and get to know them.
- Wednesday December 19th, the youth will meet at the building to put together fruit baskets. Supper will be provided for all who come and participate.
- The Cauley family will be out of town this week and traveling to make final arrangements on their housing. Please keep them in prayer as they travel and relocate.
- Much thanks to the Smiths who hosted our annual holiday get together last week. A good time was had by all! Thank you!
- Our pantry item is: Pancake Mix.

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

	Dec. 16th, 2007	Dec. 23rd, 2007
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Mitch Rhymer	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ervin Hand	George Eddings
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	John Gass
Lord's Table	Dan Hand	Ken Smith
	John Gass	Dale Pinkley
(assist)	Jerry Roller	Michael Morrell
	Brandon Foster	Benjamin Windle
Closing Prayer	Clay Bozarth	Ervin Hand
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Mitch Rhymer	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Ervin Hand
Scripture Reading:	Benjamin Windle	Ken Smith
Lord's Table	Clay Bozarth	Floyd Bills
	Michael Morrell	Matthew Morrell
Closing Prayer	Ervin Hand	Floyd Bills
Wednesday		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Benjamin Windle
Opening Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Bruce Foster
Closing Prayer:	George Eddings	Michael Morrell

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