

Berryville Bible Beacon

Volume 6, Issue 49

December 23rd, 2007

Manipulated?

Have you ever been manipulated by someone to such a degree that when the entire thing is over you feel like an old bath towel that has been hung out to dry, just kind of waving back and forth in the wind? I know that I have and I don't really care to relive those experiences or recount them. They are quite embarrassing to recall and usually emotionally painful as well. Perhaps, however, one of the biggest manipulations in our culture and society is the philosophies of post modernism. Whether we realize it or not, and most do not, the way that we think in our society and culture is influenced. Television, advertisements, the evening news, sitcoms, buying products at the grocery store, video games, movies, restaurants, theme parks, religious services even our closest friends are influenced.

Postmodernism is the period of philosophical thought after the period of modernism when rationality and logic prevailed as

the primary methods of seeking to understand reality. In the 19th century, however, philosophers divorced rationality from reality and placed a greater emphasis upon personal physical experience and existence (empiricism and existentialism). Philosophy gave up seeking to understand things by virtue of pure reason and instead sought to understand things by means of personal subjective experience. This meant that if something was outside of my personal experience, then it was unknowable because I could not subjectively experience it. Many have credited this movement with divorcing faith (defined as things outside of personal experience) and knowledge (defined as things part of personal experience) and today most simply accept this dichotomy of thought without question. Such was not always the case; the distinction between faith and knowledge made by early post modernistic thinkers was not present in the thinking of early Christians (see for example John 6:69, John 10:38,

1 Timothy 4:3, 1 Timothy 5:13).

Today you will see post modernistic thought reflected in just about every aspect of our society. The focus of society has shifted away from the question, "What do you think?" to the question, "What do you feel?" "Feeling," as a way of discerning truth, has replaced "thinking" in the post modern culture. Feelings are the primary input in regard to sense experience and so whether we are content, discontent, or whatever, it all depends upon what we feel about something. This way of thinking is subtle and many do not understand they are being manipulated by post modern thinking; nevertheless they are manipulated into patterns of behavior that are personally destructive as a result of this philosophy and our default acceptance of it.

We need to understand that such thinking is antagonistic to Christian thought where we are exhorted to use our mind to control our passions. The

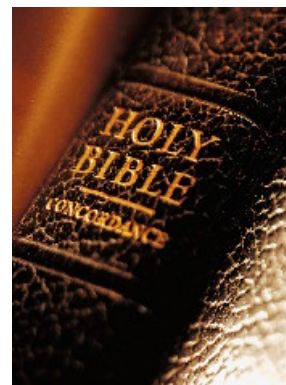
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Welcome To the Berryville church of Christ

- ♦ *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 December 23rd, 2007

AM Sermon	The Extreme Jesus
Scripture Reading	Philippians 3:7-11
PM Sermon	Psalm 119:33-40
Scripture Reading	Studies in Psalm 119:33-40—Delighting in God’s Word
Sunday Class.....	The Book of Matthew
Wednesday Class.....	Sharing the Abundant Life
Nursing Home Bible Study	The Book of Romans



Manipulated, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

concept of sobriety is a familiar concept in the New Testament which emphasizes exactly this point. Christians are to be sober (1 Peter 1:13) and not allow their personal feelings, passions, and experiences to overwhelm their Christian thought and knowledge. In Christianity, thought leads feelings, not vice versa. This is why Paul can write in Philippians 4:8 “think on these things.” By virtue of our thoughts controlling and shaping our experience, the Christian is able to have the peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7). When our experience, however, leads our thoughts, then we are placed in the situation that James describes in James 1:6 “like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed.”

When we allow our experiences to dominate then our thoughts will follow and instead of having a positive, optimistic view of life that we know is ours through revelation, we begin to focus upon physical problems and difficulties that slant our thinking toward pessimism and a generally destructive view of life. We will then

have no thought patterns that are capable of processing our experience meaningfully and constructively. Instead our thought patterns will be processed BY our experience, whatever that experience might be. It is due to this fundamental shift in thinking away from experience and toward allowing thought to control their lives that early Christians found themselves “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name” (Acts 5:41).

It takes a fundamental shift in thinking and a supreme effort of the will in order to break the cycle of post modernistic thought and behavior. We must do this, however, in order to bring our lives back into a pattern that is dominated not by experience, but by thought. It helps when we have individuals around us who are also willing to make the effort. It is, however, incredibly difficult to do in a society where experience trumps thought in every direction we turn. The church can play a great role in providing a haven against post modernistic thought when Christians reject experience as the arbiter of thought and embrace the principles of

Christianity as shaping their experiences.

Kevin Cauley

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expected to devote themselves to their studies full time during these two years. Those who study in the school get a comprehensive education in the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation; every book is studied. They also get instruction in preaching, how to study the Bible, and various other culturally necessary studies to help round out their education. Upon graduation the students can be expected to become full time gospel preachers or enter the church ready to work as a Bible class teacher. My immediate role in the school will be to teach the book of Acts, 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Jude, and also Secular Philosophy vs. Christianity. If you know of any young men (or older, for that matter) who would like to get an education in the Bible, please get them in contact with me and I’ll see that they get some information on the school.

Kevin Cauley

The Week in Review: December 16th, 2007



Sunday Bible Class.....	56
Sunday AM Worship.....	70
Sunday PM Worship.....	57
Wednesday Night Study.....	44
Contribution.....	\$1627.38
Budget.....	\$1743.39

Kevin's Korner

There's something nerve racking about knowing you're moving yet not knowing if you're going to have a place to live in less than two weeks. Fortunately, we're not in that situation today. A few days ago, we were. We found out when we got down to Austin that there were two things we were still waiting on to happen. First, the underwriters hadn't approved our loan and second, the title company had thought we were scheduled to close next week. We were blessed in that the loan situation got resolved while we were still in Austin. We were not, however, able to move any of our possessions into the new resident just yet and had to leave more stuff in my parents' yard. This was because the title company was not able to accommodate us to close on the house while we were in town, so we will have to close via FedEx this week. Such is the drama known as our life.

It would be completely inappropriate for me not to say anything about your expression of love that was given to Mary Lynn and I last Sunday afternoon at the potluck. Let me say from

the bottom of my heart, thank you so much! We feel so blessed having been part of such a loving congregation for the past six years. I don't believe that we will ever forget the Berryville church of Christ, your faithfulness, your love, and your Christian spirit.

Today starts our last full week in Berryville. We have one more Sunday to be here. This coming week we will be finishing our packing. Saturday morning I have a big U-Haul truck reserved and will pick it up at one of our local dealers. We will begin packing boxes into the truck on Saturday and we will finish loading it with our furniture and the rest of our "stuff" on Sunday. If you would like to come by Sunday afternoon to help with loading we would be most appreciative of any assistance that you could give. Early Monday morning (December 31st), I will hop in the truck and we will begin the long journey to our new residence at 2451 Green Meadows Lane, Buda, Texas 78610. We don't have a new phone number just yet. You can, however, contact me via e-mail at kevin-cauley@yahoo.com if you want to

send us a note.

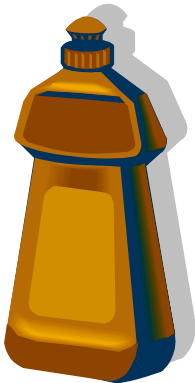
The radio program that has been running on KTHS will end this Friday. Last week I spoke on the topic of hell. This week will be on the topic of heaven. I have really enjoyed doing the radio program. I believe that it has made an impact with several people in the community in developing their souls for the harvest. 2008 will be a great year for the Berryville church of Christ in that regard. You have been working and learning how to be soul winners on Wednesday night. I want to urge you to follow through on what you have learned and work diligently to make 2008 a great year for the Lord in evangelizing the lost and in working to keep the saved. God will bless your efforts as you continue to serve Him.

I haven't said too much about where I'll be working in the bulletin, but I thought I would share a bit of information with you. The Southwest School of Bible Studies was established in the late 1970s. It began as a one year school and quickly expanded to a two year program. Students are

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Announcements

- We extend our sympathies to the family of Crystal Hess whose grandmother passed away last week.
- Please remember in prayer: Clay Bozarth, Charlie Clay, Mary Forehand, Trish Foster, Marjorie Robinson, Susan Waltkies.
- Shut in: Opal Hull, Wilma Morris.
- Katie Williams is taking a mission trip soon and is looking for some financial support in that regard. Please talk to her if you would like more information on that work.
- The fruit baskets were put together this past Wednesday. If you have not picked your up yet they are in the back of the auditorium.
- Our pantry item is: Liquid 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

Dec. 23rd, 2007

Dec. 30th, 2007

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Ken Smith	Bill Fort
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Ken Smith
Scripture Reading:	John Gass	Jerry Roller
Lord's Table	Ken Smith	Glenn Quigley
	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
(assist)	Michael Morrell	Benjamin Windle
	Benjamin Windle	Austin Cauley
Closing Prayer	Ervin Hand	Leon Duncan

Sunday Evening

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

Wednesday

Songs:	Benjamin Windle	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	Brandon Foster	Rusty Windle
Invitation:	Bruce Foster	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Michael Morrell	Ray Duncan

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