

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

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July 14th, 2002

Genetic Modifications

Kevin Cauley

The message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is still the same today as it was two thousand years ago. In the book of Hebrews we read, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). It is based upon this solid fact of scripture that the principles of restoration are preached. If the gospel message is the same today as it was 2000 years ago (and it is) and if mankind is basically the same as he was 2000 years ago (and he is), then the gospel is relevant to mankind today and when planted in the hearts and minds of man, it will produce the same thing that it produced 2000 years ago—Christians.

This is due in large part to the preservation of the gospel of Christ throughout the centuries. Jesus said that his word would not pass away (Luke 21:33). Jesus also said that his gospel was like a seed (Luke 8:11). Today, we know that a seed contains the genetic information of the plant from which it originated. And when the same seed is planted the seed will produce the same kind of plant from which the seed came. But what if a scientist got a hold of the seed and genetically modified it? Today we have scientists who are genetically modifying plants so that they will live longer, grow in dryer climates, produce larger fruits, and generally change the original characteristics of the seed. This can produce a better plant and increase the production of the species.

What would happen, however, if there were a "perfect" seed and a scientist started modifying it

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Kevin's Korner

I am really sore today from the serious racquetball game that I played Thursday night with Rusty. Unfortunately, neither one of us will have bragging rights this week as we ended in a two game to two tie. We played in the new community center this past Thursday night. This facility is very nice and if you have not been over to see it as of yet, you should really stop by. By the way, if there are any racquetball players among the congregation that want to go play sometime, just let me know (grin).



I received a good report from Art Robert's housekeeper this past week. I went to visit him on Wednesday afternoon and he was sleeping, but she said that for the past two days he had gotten up and was sitting in his chair. I took this as good news regarding his personal health. Let's continue to remember him in our prayers.

I don't know if I mentioned it, but I bought a new guitar a couple of weeks ago and have been practicing a little bit at home since. One thing that I have noticed about playing the guitar is that if you don't play for a while (and I haven't played for a LONG while) the ends of your fingers get real sore after the first few practices. But after a while, they will stop being so sore and eventually you develop calluses on the end of your fingertips. Two spiritual lessons spring to my mind regarding this situation, one positive and one negative.

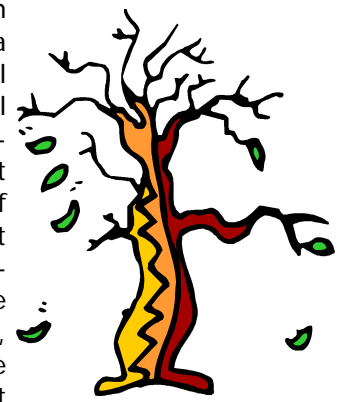
On the positive side, when we start to do something different but that we know is right, we can sometimes feel uncomfortable. Just like my fingers felt uncomfortable when I started playing the guitar again, but a few nights later, they didn't feel bad at all. In congregations when elders propose new works or when new leaders are selected, this is a challenging time for the church and some members may feel uncomfortable, but

as long as we know it is right, then we should go ahead and get the job done. Paul told the Ephesians elders in Acts 20:38 that he would see them no more. This made them uncomfortable, but they went forward and did their work anyway.

The second lesson is on the negative side. When we do something that we know is WRONG and persist in it, then we can develop calluses against what is right. Paul speaks about this situation to Timothy. He says in 1 Timothy 4:2 that some were going to teach false doctrine and that these doctrines were going to be branded in their consciences as a hot iron. This is the opposite of the above situation. When we know something is WRONG, then we should NOT do it lest our consciences become seared and we can no longer tell the difference between right and wrong.

Calluses can be good and bad. They are good when we know that the thing we are doing is good, but we are just personally uncomfortable with it. They are bad when the Bible clearly teaches that the thing that we are doing is wrong and we have ignored our consciences to the point that they no longer work. Let's all work diligently to study God's word so that we can learn the difference between the right and the wrong. This will help us understand when it is good to have calluses and when it is not.

But with a PERFECT seed, there can be no beneficial changes. All changes made would be detrimental. We can understand then Paul's warning regarding changes to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Christians in Galatia were accepting a different gospel. Paul warns them, "I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; which is not another {gospel} only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema. As we have said before, so say I now again, if any man preacheth unto you any gospel other than that which ye received, let him be anathema." With the PERFECT seed, any genetic modifications that are made are detrimental and fatal.



Peter writes in 1 Peter 1:23 that the word of God is "incorruptible." It is the perfect seed. It won't decay; it won't perish; it won't be changed and still remain the word of God. Any modifications made to the word of God by human hands result in something other than God's word. This is why it is so important that we leave God's word alone and not try to change or alter it in any way.

There are men today who are trying to make genetic modifications to the word of God. Some men do this through preaching another gospel. Some men do it through producing Bible translations that do not respect God's word. Some men do it by ignoring important parts of God's word all together. One

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genetically? The next plant would be less than perfect. It would be flawed. It would be substandard because it would not contain the original qualities that are in the perfect seed. Most likely the resulting project would be abandoned and discarded because no improvements can be made upon the original. But sometimes, scientists can act in such a way so that they believe they are improving something when they are actually harming it. Such was the case with the tonsil. For years and years doctors removed tonsils from young children thinking that they were improving their lives. However, recent medicine has shown that the tonsil is a very important part of the body's immune system. As a result, it is much more rare today to hear of child's tonsils being removed.

This can be true genetically as well. It takes years and years for scientists to effect changes in a genetic pattern that are beneficial. Many genetic changes actually result in inferior plants and some genetic changes result in no change at all.

“With a perfect seed there can be no beneficial change. All changes made would be detrimental.”

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley
Deacons: Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle
Preacher: Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:.....9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship:6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class:.....7:00 PM

The Preaching of the Pews

Kevin Cauley

Today I took a stroll all through
The pews inside the auditorium
They preached a sermon very true
About the things that people do
During time devoted to the Lord

I came across a note that read
"What's for lunch today, my dear.
Ham and corn, beans and bread.
Would you rather go out instead?"
Was the Lord's feast not as near?

A Bible laid all sparkling new.
The owner's name was scrawled inside
But he himself was not nearby
He must have Bibles out the gazoo,
To leave such a fine one in the pew.

A songbook lay down a few rows.
I picked it up to read a few lines.
What filthy words were writ in rage.
By some adolescent wasting time.
I hope a visitor doesn't see that page.

And then I saw a pew I know.
The padding falling down below.
That's where a faithful brother sits.
Not a single service does he miss.
Wish all the pews looked like his.

What kind of preaching does your pew do?
Does it tell of one who's faithful and true?
Or does it indicate a brutish sot,
One on whom remains sin's spot?
How to God will your pew read,
When you face Him in eternity?

Sunday's Sermons

For July 14th

Morning Prayer as Worship
Scripture.....Matthew 6:5-15
Evening Questions & Answers
Scripture..... NA

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consistent truth about genetic modifications is that they are done in very small amounts at a time. Men who bring in false doctrine do exactly the same thing. They don't alter everything all at once, but just make one small change at a time. In doing so, they produce inferior plants that will ultimately be uprooted and destroyed (Matthew 15:13).

Men may succeed at genetically altering corruptible seeds, but no-one will ever succeed at altering the word of God. To attempt to do so invites destruction. John wrote in Revelation 22:18, 19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Let us as Christians determine to do everything in our power to ensure that the pure word of God is preached and taught wherever we are today. This is the only hope we have of producing the same plant that God wants growing in our lives. Let's leave genetic modifications in the laboratory being practiced on the corruptible seeds, not the incorruptible one.

"The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD. "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

(Jeremiah 23:28,29)

Our Record

Week of July 7th

Sunday Class	61
Sunday A.M.....	78
Sunday P.M.	64
Wednesday	57
Contribution.....	\$2032.09

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Michael Collins, Opal Hull, Charles and Linda Pogue.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Jessica Lovelady is also in the nursing home in room 307.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Remember our shut-ins: Elsie Meadows, Mary Patterson, Art Roberts.
- Tonight will be our monthly question and answer session.
- Next Sunday will be our monthly elders and deacons meeting.
- Next Sunday we will have our potluck. Be sure to bring plenty of good food!
- Bert Thompson will be speaking on the 19th-21st at the 10th and Rockford church of Christ in Tulsa OK. We are taking a group over there to hear him. If you want to go, please get with Brent and Shawna Stevens.
- Last Sunday morning, Charles Pogue came forward and confessed fault. He said that he had allowed his health problems to interfere with his living the Christian life. He asked for the prayers of the congregation for their forgiveness and in his continued struggle with his health.
- As announced this past Sunday, Dale Pinkley no longer wishes to be deacon for the congregation. The elders have accepted his resignation in this regard.
- As was also announced, Kevin and Rusty will be going to Costa Rica this coming September. We are making preparations right now. Please pray for us as we prepare and as we work and as we travel.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Poptarts.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	July 14th, 2002	July 21st, 2002
Song Leader:	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Clyde Atchley
Scripture:	Leon Duncan	Perry Foster
Lord's Table:	Bruce Foster	Clay Bozarth
	Hugh Atchley	George Eddings
(assist)	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
	Ray Duncan	Brent Stevens
Closing Prayer	George Eddings	Rusty Windle
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Larry Elliott	Rusty Windle
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
Scripture:	Rusty Windle	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table:	Hugh Atchley	Bruce Foster
	Brandon Foster	Dale Pinkley
Closing Prayer	Bob Moore	Bill Fort
Wednesday		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Brent Stevens	Larry Elliott
Invitation:	Dale Pinkley	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Leon Duncan	
Worship Coordinator	Glenn Quigley	
Communion Prep	Pat Quigley	Debbie Smith
Communion Carry	Dale Pinkley	Clay Bozarth

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail bvcoc@alltel.net to contribute information.

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