



The Berryville Church of Christ

Bible Beacon

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



Volume 1, Issue 33

September 15th, 2002

News Flash: The Sun Shines and the Rain Falls

David Deffenbaugh

As I type the sun shines. Only minutes ago the rain fell. Hardly remarkable events. We've all experienced both countless times. But, as unremarkable as those events are, they are reminders of remarkable truth.

Jesus taught that the common occurrences of sun and rain are evidences of God's graciousness; that is, God showing His goodness to those who are not worthy recipients. "So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Matt. 5:45). The sun and rain are what God "causes" and what He "sends". They come from His hand. They are not merely the happenstance byproduct of a cosmic explosion some multiplied millions of years ago. They are a blessing of God and the good that is derived from them is attributable directly to Him. We thank Him for our "daily bread" for without sun and rain there would be no bread.

We make a mistake when we think of the routine activities of nature as a "given". Some people foolishly think that it is by their own effort and labor and hard work that they have what they have; as if God had nothing to do with the good things we enjoy. I'm reminded of a story of a man who challenged God. He said God wasn't so great and that he could do anything God could. God asked what the man proposed. After some thought the man said they should both make a rabbit out of a pile of dirt. God agreed and the man bent down to scoop up some dirt and God said, "Wait a minute. You go get your own dirt".

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Kevin's Korner



Next week I will be gone. Rusty and I will be in Costa Rica, Lord Willing, and working with the brethren at the congregation in Tres Rios. We are having a gospel meeting there and the theme is "Be Ye Reconciled to God." Please continue to pray for us as we make preparations this week. We have been so blessed with your prayers; we covet them and are deeply appreciative and thankful for them. God bless you for your prayers for us over the past several months.

We had such a great time at Roaring River on Friday night. Bill and Lucille came by for the evening and we made hamburgers, hotdogs, and ate SMORES! They were very yummy. Saturday was kids fish free day at Roaring River and we took the kids over to get their free fishing tag after breakfast. We had just finished trying our luck (we caught nothing, by the way) and were setting up for the picnic lunch. Austin and Charlie were playing on the playground there at the picnic area. I had gone back to the car to get something when I heard one of the kids crying. I looked up and Austin was coming toward me holding his arm. Another parent was escorting him. It didn't look very good. We put everything in the car and asked the Elliotts to pack our tent and went to the Berryville emergency center. Sure enough, Austin had broken both bones in his arm near his wrist. Thankfully, he did not have a compound fracture that needed to be set. We ended up having our picnic at McDonalds.

I do want to thank Larry Elliott and Glenn Williams for packing up my camping equipment and bringing it to my house for me. What would we do if we did not have godly brethren to help in our times of need. Paul writes, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). I am so thankful for God's plan for the church. Without it where would we all be today?

Gospel Meeting



Preacher: David Deffenbaugh
of Tahlequah Oklahoma

Sunday October 6th through
Wednesday October 9th

Our Theme:

Jesus Said

9:30 AM Sunday Class

***Why Should We Care What Jesus
Said?***

10:20 AM Sunday Worship
"Come To Me"

6:00 PM Sunday
"You Cannot Be My Disciple"

7:00 PM Monday
***"The Way is Narrow That Leads to
Life"***

7:00 PM Tuesday
"I Will Never Leave You"

7:00 PM Wednesday
"I Will Build My Church"

Be there with us!

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These "givens" are only "given" in the sense that they are given by God for our benefit and good no matter what we think or believe about Him.

Note also, though, that the verse begins with "So that". Actually the verse division at 45 divides a sentence. The first half of the sentence is verse 44, "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," (Matt. 5:44). God's sending the sun and rain on both the righteous and unrighteous is to serve reason for us, as His children, to love our enemies. Luke also records this teaching of Jesus, only in slightly different terms, "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men." (Luke 6:35).

The sun and rain are manifestations of God's kindness. He does not withhold his kindness from undeserving people. Wouldn't that be a strange thing to witness? With this morning's shower all one would have to do is see which houses the rain was falling on and on which ones it wasn't to separate the good from the bad. It makes one wonder what would happen if a godly woman was married to a reprobate husband? Anyhow, the point is that we must also be willing to be kind to and love ungrateful and evil men. It's not an easy thing. The rude man who cut in front of me in line at the store, I felt needed a good scolding. God says he needs kindness and love. That's not what I wanted to show. But he gets sun and rain from God. Am I God's child or not?

So the sun shines and the rain falls. There is more to those mundane occurrences of life than just nature doing its thing. They are a blessing sent from God and a reminder as to how God's children as supposed to act.

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

Deacons: 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

Is It the Holy Spirit or Is It Memorex?

Kevin Cauley

Several years ago before CDs had replaced cassette tapes there was a well known commercial on television. The commercial would show a fine crystal glass and than an opera singer shattering the glass with the intensity of her high and sustained voice. But after the glass was shattered, the camera would pull back and reveal not an opera singer next to the glass, but a tape player with a Memorex tape being played—a man-made fabrication. The famous words were then uttered, “Is it live or is it Memorex?”

Many practitioners of religion today remind me of this commercial. Not unlike the commercial, the impression is given that these religious folks are dealing directly with the Holy Spirit in their religion. They speak of how the Holy Spirit moves them to do certain good works. The talk about how the Holy Spirit illuminates their understanding so that they can know God’s word. They may even display certain signs such as speaking in tongues or “falling out” – all attributed to the work of the Holy Spirit. However when you “pull the camera back” to see what is really going on we find not the Holy Spirit, but a man-made fabrication. How do we know these alleged practices of the Holy Spirit to be merely man-made fabrications?

First we can know that someone is fabricating if they speak or say something other than what the Bible says. Truth does not contradict itself. So if someone is claiming something to be true when the Bible says it is otherwise you can know it is a man made fabrication. A good example of this is the modern day “sign” of tongues. The Bible nowhere states that a tongue is some kind of unintelligible gibberish. In fact it says the opposite—that tongues were languages that men could understand (cf. Acts 2:4, 8) and were a sign for the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 14:22). They were never intended to be used in the midst of the worship of Christians (14:23). The miracle of the tongue is speaking in a foreign language that one has never studied. To state that the Holy Spirit causes one to speak in unintelligible gibberish and to call that a “tongue” is contradictory to the Bible’s teaching and cannot be a product of the Holy Spirit, but rather a man-made fabrication.

Second, it is fascinating to me that two men can both

claim “divine illumination” and yet contradict one another. One of these two would be without doubt lying. How could the Holy Spirit illuminate both men? He most certainly could and would not as God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). In fact the Bible teaches that we come to understand the scriptures not through divine illumination, but through a study of the words which the apostles and prophets were inspired to write (cf. Ephesians 3:3-5). To claim that we cannot understand the scriptures without divine illumination is contrary to the writings of the Holy Spirit within the New Testament and hence not a product of the Holy Spirit, but rather a man-made fabrication.

Third, I recently heard a most interesting story regarding the practice of “falling out” where after one is “touched” by a preacher, the individual falls backward as his body somehow comes under the mysterious and alleged control of the Holy Spirit. It seems that a young man wanted to experience this “falling out.” The story goes that he accepted Jesus into his heart (thus he would be saved according to his religion’s teaching) but when he got up and the preacher touched his head, nothing happened. The preacher touched his head harder but still nothing happened. He displayed the same amount of “faith” that all the others displayed so why should he have been overlooked by the Holy Spirit? We know that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) so why would he be passed by? Could it be that those who practice such things are just substituting a man-made fabrication? In fact it must be so. We never read of such a practice in the New Testament. In fact, we read just the opposite. We see that it is BEFORE people were healed that they displayed bodily convulsions and uncontrollability not AFTER. In every case of a healing or exorcism we find the recipient of the miracle calm and reposed and in their right mind (cf. Luke 8:35; Matthew 8:14-16). Such claims of Holy Spirit possession that would cause one to fall back and wallow around on the floor are contrary to the teaching of the New Testament and are thus man-made fabrications.

No matter how good a Memorex tape is, it is still a man-made fabrication. It is obvious that the claims of Holy Spirit involvement in today’s religious world are false and contrary to Biblical teaching. They too are just man-made fabrications. So the next time you see someone “falling out” or hear someone speaking in tongues or claim divine illumination ask yourself, “Is it the Holy Spirit or is it Memorex?”

Sunday’s Sermons

For 09/15

Morning **Who Is Jesus?**
 Scripture.....John 1:18
Evening **How To Be Evangelistic**
 Scripture.....Matthew 4:19

Our Record

Week of 09/08

Sunday Class	69
Sunday A.M.....	85
Sunday P.M.	73
Wednesday	70
Contribution.....	\$1746.25

News, Notes and Prayer List



• Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Austin Cauley, Denna Dickey, Leon Duncan, Donna Henderson, Opal Hull.

- 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.
- Austin Cauley fell at Roaring River and broke two bones in his arm. Please remember him in your prayers.
- Moises and Maritsa are planning on coming in November to visit with us for a couple of weeks. If you would like to help with the expense of them coming, please get with Bill Fort.
- I received a call this week stating that High School students will be able to study the Bible as literature in school next semester. It will not be on their printed course schedule, so if you want to take this class, get with your school counselors. Also, the school district needs some money to pay for this class. If you would like to help support teaching the Bible in our school district, please call the superintendents office ASAP.
- There will be an elders and deacons meeting tonight after services.
- Next week, Kevin and Rusty will be gone to Costa Rica! Please remember them in your prayers as they travel and labor in the kingdom.
- Today is our potluck. Everyone is invited to stay after services and enjoy the food and fellowship.
- Don't forget our Gospel Meeting coming up with David Deffenbaugh! Invite, Invite, Invite!!!
- The Pantry Item for this week is Paper Plates.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	September 15th, 2002	September 22nd, 2002
Song Leader:	Ken Smith	Clyde Atchley
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Larry Elliott
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Leon Duncan
Scripture:	Perry Foster	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table:	Glenn Quigley	George Eddings
	Clyde Atchley	John Gass
(assist)	Brent Stevens	Perry Foster
	Bruce Foster	Raymond Kimes
Closing Prayer	Bill Fort	Ray Duncan
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Clay Bozarth
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Larry Elliott
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Dale Pinkley
Scripture:	Dale Pinkley	Brent Moore
Lord's Table:	Ray Duncan	Ken Smith
	John Gass	Bob Moore
Closing Prayer	Rusty Windle	Glenn Quigley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	John Gass	Leon Duncan
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Brent Stevens
Closing Prayer:	Ken Smith	Glenn Williams
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Rusty Windle	
Worship Coordinator	Brent Stevens	
Communion Prep	Bob Moore	Glenn Quigley
Communion Carry	Joann Bragg	Tiffany Windle

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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