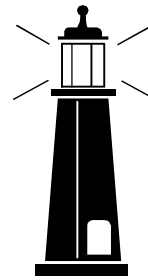


The Berryville Church of Christ

Bible Beacon



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

Volume 2, Issue 6

February 9th, 2003

The Keys of the Kingdom

Kevin Cauley

In Matthew 18:13ff, Jesus presents a very important question to these disciples. He says, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" The disciples said that some people are saying that you are John the Baptizer; some people say that you are Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Jesus then asks the disciples, "But whom say ye that I am." Peter speaks up and says, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus response to this question is revealing. He says that this confession that Peter made came from God and that based upon this confession Jesus will build His church. It is within this context of Peter's confession and the promise to build His church that Jesus says, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:19).

The metaphor that Jesus uses both to describe the church and the kingdom here is one of a building. Jesus said that he was going to build the church and give the keys of the kingdom. Buildings are both built and have keys. We would use the same language in regard to a house or an office building today. The process of building involves planning, construction, and finishing. When the building is complete, the builder gives the keys to those who are going to reside therein so that they can open and close the door to the building. Jesus is using a similar metaphor here regarding the church. The design of the church, the planning for the church, and the purpose of the church were all put together by Jesus--he is the builder. When Jesus died on the cross, he became the head and Savior of the church according to Ephesians 5:23-27. This meant that after his death, everything was ready for people to start

(Continued on page 2)

Kevin's Korner

We certainly want to welcome all of our visitors here this morning. We invite you to follow along with the worship today and if you have any questions or comments to please let us know. And we ask you to fill out a visitors card and leave it in the pew so that we can have a record of your attendance. We will not send you junk mail, but we may send you a thank you card for coming. Thanks for visiting with us today and come back to see us every opportunity you have.



The youth devotional at our house this past Sunday night was wonderful. We certainly enjoyed the presence of everyone's company there. It is always good when we can come together to worship God and think about His word. The prophet Malachi wrote, "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name" (Mal.3:16). We are so blessed here to have several who are so interested in speaking about things of the Lord and thinking upon His name. God takes notice to us when we study his word and remembers those who fear Him. What a joyous blessing to know that when we are studying the word, God writes it down.

As I mentioned in my classes, I have set up some Bible studies with members in the community. I request your prayers as I study with these individuals that everything would be done according to the will of God and that their hearts would be open toward the gospel. Paul wrote, "... pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you...." (2 Thessalonians 3:1). We have the chal-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

lence of prayer before us each day. Pray for me and pray for the church that we will be more evangelistic in our community.

We still have a few "Question and Answers 2002" books available in the foyer. I want to encourage you to pick up one of these books and give it to someone you know. There is a risk that the person you give it to may just decide to throw it in the trash, but we need to do our part regardless the attitude of others. When the Day of Judgment comes and we stand before God we will be able to say regarding this person that the effort was made. At that point, God will require of that person an account. We can do our part to do what is right and that is all we can do. We cannot force anyone to read God's word or to accept it or to obey it, but we can teach it and be a good example, and point the way. We have been studying about the one talent man in our Bible class. The problem that he had was not that he didn't have something with which to do, but that he did nothing with what he had. Let's not "do nothing" with the remainder of these books. Let's find someone in our community to give one to and then give it.

Do you need something to do for the Lord? Have you been at home thinking about your responsibilities toward God lately and wondered if there was anything else you could do? I think that is always a good question to ask of oneself. There is no shortage of opportunity for us to work in the kingdom of God. There are several things that one could do to help around the church building. We have need for volunteers to clean the building and to do various cleaning chores in the building. We have need for someone to prepare the communion from time to time. If you name is not on this list, we can put it on there for you to do this. We have need for folks to go visit the nursing homes and let our elderly know that we care about them. We have need to go do volunteer work in the community to let the community know that we care about it. We have need to put together tracts and literature to keep those who use these materials for teaching in supply. We have need for individuals to work at our upcoming VBS program. We have need for Bible class teachers from time to time. We have need for keep the teachers work room organized. We have need for individuals to follow up with visitors. We have need for additional people to grade Bible correspondence courses. If you are not involved in something today--get involved! Let the elders know that you want to do more work and get busy. Let's all have the attitude of Isaiah when he said, "Here am I, send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).

(Continued from page 1)

entering into the church. But to enter into the church, they needed the keys to open the door. Jesus told Peter that He would give him the keys to open the doors to Jesus' building--His church--the kingdom of heaven. These keys were given to Peter in Acts 2.

In Acts chapter 2, Peter preaches the first gospel sermon to those who had crucified Jesus. He proclaims in this sermon that Jesus was resurrected from the dead and that those standing around were guilty of crucifying the Son of God. During the message which Peter was delivering to them, the hearers speak up and say, "Men and brethren what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Peter then tells them that they need to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38). We see in Acts 2:41 that those who gladly received the word were baptized. The result of their baptism was that they were added to the disciples (Acts 2:41). And we see in Acts 2:47 that this meant when they were saved (through obedience) they were added to the church. The commands that Peter spoke are the keys to the kingdom. These commands are the terms of entrance into the church. Peter's preaching of the gospel resulted in guilty individuals hearing, being baptized, and having their sins forgiven. Through their obedience they were then ushered into the church that Jesus promised he would build, thus opening the door to all who would believe and obey forever.

Those same keys are entrusted to members of the church today and using the same plan which Peter preached in Acts 2, the same results can occur in the lives and hearts of men and women. The world today is just as guilty of crucifying the Son of because it was for the sins of the world that Jesus died. Those who are in their sins this hour stand guilty before God of this ultimate crime. The only recourse of action that they have to be reconciled to God today is to use these same keys to enter into the kingdom of heaven. When a person hears the gospel of Jesus and obeys the commands that are contained therein to repent and be baptized, they will be added to the church just as those who first heard the preaching of Peter. Peter used the keys that were given to him to unlock the door of the kingdom. The door of the kingdom stands opened wide for all who would use those same keys today.

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

Advice on the Tongue

Kevin Cauley

The book of James is a book that is filled with all kinds of practical advice. Perhaps one of the most practical aspects within the book is the teaching we have regarding the tongue. In James 3 we find no less than twelve verses devoted to this subject. James (3:2-12) writes:

If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring can yield both salt water and fresh.

James says that the tongue cannot be tamed. It is something with which everyone struggles. It is a small member, but it causes incredible difficulties in our life. He says that the tongue can define the whole body and easily cause problems that will rage out of control like a wildfire. Both blessing and cursing can proceed from this little member and we ought to make sure that blessing is what comes from ours. So how can we work on controlling our tongues?

Interestingly enough, James gives us some advice on that in the first chapter. He (1:19) says, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to

wrath." Someone once said that God gave us two ears but only one tongue. This is exactly what James is talking about. We should be quick to want to hear what others say to us, but slow to want to speak our mind to them. Like my mother used to say, "Think before you speak." The Proverb writer would say the same thing as follows: "The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil" (Proverbs 15:28).

Notice secondly that sometimes the best thing to do is to keep silent and not say anything at all. In Proverbs 17:28 we read, "Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive." One can never go wrong in a situation by keeping one's mouth closed.

Perhaps the biggest problem in our society today is the almost universal desire to express amazement by taking the Lord's name in vain. The phrase, "Oh my God" is used to much by the world today that you can't walk down the street without hearing it. Christians ought not to utter than holy name except with a reverent attitude. Jesus warns, "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:36, 37)." What will be the count of the number of times you used the Lord's name in vain on judgment day?

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

Sunday's Sermons

For February 9th

Morning..... At the End of Time

Scripture 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Evening.....Q&A

Scripture NA

Our Record

Week of 2/2

Sunday Class 65
Sunday A.M..... 84
Sunday P.M. 65
Wednesday 55
Contribution.....\$1849.84
Budget\$1760.00

News, Notes and Prayer List



- God be thanked for another first day of the week.
- We welcome everyone to our services this morning. If you are visiting we especially are glad for your presence.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Connie Atchley, Toley Hart, Jo Nimmo.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- There will be a brief VBS meeting tonight to review VBS material.
- If you have not had your picture taken yet, please stay a few minutes after services to get this done.
- We have a Valentines Day party scheduled for Saturday 15th. This will be a potluck meal so please make plans to attend.
- Friends and Family Day
- Our monthly elders and deacons meeting will be next Sunday.
- Tonight is our question and answer night.
- Our monthly Sunday potluck is next week. Please make plans.
- We are still in need of volunteers to help clean the building. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer. If you wish to help clean the building in some other way, please get with Brent Stevens.
- We have an updated letter from A.J. Hendrix posted in the back regarding his missionary work in Honduras.
- We also have a letter posted from Jake and Jessica King who we support in preacher training school.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Canned Tuna.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	February 9th, 2003	February 16th, 2003
Song Leader:	Brent Stevens	Larry Elliott
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Clay Bozarth
Scripture:	Ray Duncan	Brent Moore
Lord's Table:	Bill Fort	Glenn Quigley
	Ken Smith	Matt Bassing
(assist)	Brandon Foster	Perry Foster
	John Gass	Raymond Kimes
Closing Prayer	George Eddings	Rusty Windle
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Clyde Atchley
Scripture:	Matt Bassing	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table:	Rusty Windle	Leon Duncan
	Raymond Kimes	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Hugh Atchley
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Bob Moore
Invitation:	Bill Fort	Brent Stevens
Closing Prayer:	Glenn Quigley	Kevin Cauley
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Ken Smith	
Worship Coordinator	Bill Fort	
Communion Prep	Gladys Kimes	Pam Pinkley
Communion Carry	John Gass	Rusty 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 bvccoc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
Berryville Church of Christ
909 West Trimble Street, Berryville, AR 72616