



# Bible Beacon

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

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## When To Not Bid Godspeed

Kevin Cauley

**T**he passage from which the title of this article originates is found on 2 John 9-11. John writes, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." It is clear from this passage that Christians are not to provide aid and comfort to (nor even greet) those who are not preaching the gospel within the boundaries of the doctrine of Christ. While John was dealing with the specific problem of gnosticism and the denial that Jesus came in the flesh (2 John 7), the principle applies to any who would deliberately pervert the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-9). This means that we need to understand what John is speaking about to not be guilty of supporting false doctrine. Let us examine some of these things that the Bible clearly does not include within John's prohibition and then focus on what John specifically includes when speaking concerning these individuals.

First, Christians may not withhold fellowship based upon personal disagreements. We find one such personal disagreement mentioned in Acts 15:36-41. Paul and Barnabas had decided to go on another missionary journey. Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them, but Paul did not. Each was adamant and the Bible says that there was "sharp contention" between them. However, the result of the disagreement was that Paul chose Silas whereas Barnabas took Mark and each went to the work. This matter was simply a personal disagreement. The Bible never indicates that either man sinned. In fact, the efforts of preaching the gospel doubled. Later, we find that Paul changed his opinion regarding Mark. In 2 Timothy 4:11, Paul tells Timothy to bring Mark because he is profitable for the ministry. Both Paul and Barnabas continued to preach the gospel despite their personal disagreement. While they parted ways physically, there is no hint in the New Testament

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## Kevin's Korner

**B**ig news item this week. I FINALLY was able to get the report from our trip to Costa Rica posted on the Internet. As you remember, last Fall, Rusty and I went to Costa Rica for a mission trip. That trip was very profitable. We both made notes of the trip and over the past several months, I have been trying to merge those notes with photographs that were taken by Kenji Nishida while we were there. I have documented the entire eight day trip on the Internet at this point, but still have several pictures to put up. There are pictures up for Sunday and Monday of the trip and I encourage everyone to read about the trip and then to look at the pictures as well. This is one of the works which we support here at Berryville. The web site is: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com/CR/Home.html>



As you also know, in recent months other congregations have been interested in helping us with this work in Costa Rica as well. The church on Robinson Avenue in Conway, Arkansas and the Roanoake church of Christ in Roanoake, Texas have both pledged monthly support of \$200.00 to help in this work. In addition to that, a couple of weeks ago, an old friend of mine called. The church of which he was a member was looking to donate some money on a one time basis to a mission work and they have made a pledge to support the work in Costa Rica. This is a REALLY good work and people are starting to know about it. We are very glad that we are able to have this work here in Berryville.

In addition to all of this activity, we are going to help start a new congregation in Costa Rica this year. The elders have spoken with Moises and it looks like this new congregation is going to be es-

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# Time Management

I knelt to pray but not for long,  
I had too much to do.  
I had to hurry and get to work  
For bills would soon be due.  
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,  
And jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty was now done  
My soul could rest at ease.  
All day long I had no time  
To spread a word of cheer.  
No time to speak of Christ to friends,  
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.  
No time, no time, too much to do,  
That was my constant cry,  
No time to give to souls in need  
But at last the time, the time to die.  
I went before the Lord,  
I came, I stood with downcast eyes.  
For in his hands God held a book;  
It was the book of life.  
God looked into his book and said  
"Your name I cannot find.  
I once was going to write it down...  
But never found the time"

The apostle Paul taught we are to be involved "redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16). He also said, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time" (Col. 4:5). Paul's point is that we need to take advantage of our opportunities and be good managers of our time.

Christians need to be involved in time management. Have you ever wonder why some are able to accomplish more than others? It is not because they have more time - for each one of us have 24 hours in a day. The reason some accomplish much more than others is that they manage their time wisely. If we want to do more for the Lord we need to manage our time wisely. Set spiritual priorities in your life. Jesus said, "But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mat. 6:33).

Via North Main church of Christ  
Malvern, AR

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

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established in Cordoba which is a community within the Central Valley area close to the capital, San Jose. For this new congregation, we have begun purchasing supplies. We have purchased Bibles, tracts, song books, and communion supplies for this new congregation. So there is going to be a lot of work to do this year in Costa Rica. There is more exciting news to come about this work. We must continue to be diligent to meet the budget for the congregation so that this and other missionary efforts will go forward. Please pray for the success of this work. Please pray for Moises, Maritza, Porfirio, and Carla as they work together to ensure the Lord's church goes forward in that part of the world. Please pray for our eldership as well in this regard. Below is a picture of the congregation in Tres Rios taken from this past September. Just think that ten years ago there were only eight!

Yesterday was a great day! The men's breakfast was really outstanding. Rusty did a great job as usual in preparing our meal. After the breakfast, I went over the community center to volunteer a little time. Mary Lynn and the boys came over to "mess around" a little. It was such a beautiful day (in contrast to our recent weather) that we decided to take advantage of that and go up to Roaring River for a hike. We all thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. It just goes to show that our God is indeed the God of all blessing!



## 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

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that breach of spiritual fellowship occurred rather Paul continued to see Barnabas as a fellow worker in Christ (see 1 Corinthians 9:6 and Colossians 4:10). Matters of personal disagreement do not fall under the umbrella of 2 John 9-11.

Second, Christians are not to withhold fellowship in matters of personal conscience. Paul addresses this in Romans 14. There were certain brethren in the early church who disagreed regarding eating meat offered to idols. Paul deals with this as well as the issue of observing religious holy days. These issues, Paul says, are not to be treated in such a way so that 1) we bind upon our brethren things that God has not bound 2) we interrupt the fellowship that exists between brethren and 3) we judge our brother unrighteously. Paul writes in verse three of this chapter, "Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him." Matters of personal conscience are just that. They are personal and conscientious. It would be contrary to the teaching of scripture to apply 2 John 9-11 to such matters. In fact, it would be sinful, because we are not to reject one whom God has received.

Third, Christians are not to withhold fellowship from unknowledgeable brethren who are **willing** to be taught. One example of such a man is Apollos (Acts 18:24-28). The text makes it clear that he learned about the Lord during his earthly ministry, but evidently had to depart before that ministry was complete (possibly to Alexandria where he was from). As a result, he did not know the baptism of Christ as given in the great commission. He only knew the baptism of John. When Aquila and Priscilla heard about this, they might have said, "Apollos, you are a false teacher and we are going to withdraw fellowship from you" and done so. This, however, was not the approach they took. I want to emphasize that they did NOT allow him to continue teaching incorrectly. They did, however take Apollos aside and teach him the way of God more perfectly. Had Apollos rejected their teaching and continued to preach an incorrect baptism, they then would have been justified in applying the principle of 2 John 9-11. However, Apollos did NOT reject the correction. He accepted it and so they went forward in the work. We learn from this that before we apply the principle of 2 John 9-11 to people with whom we have not had prior contact, we should study with the person involved in

the hopes that they will learn of their error.

Finally, we see that the category of those to whom we are not to bid "Godspeed" becomes focused. Christians are to withhold fellowship from deliberate false teachers seeking to cause division within the church (Romans 16:17). By giving such individuals aid and comfort one would be allowing them to sow the seed of discord among the brethren in the local church. It was customary for preachers to stay in the homes of brethren as they passed through these ancient cities. For one to deliberately open one's house to a false teacher would be to allow that false teacher to gain a foothold in the community. The false teacher would then cause trouble for the local church. By observing John's warning regarding these false teachers, they would not be able to gain a foothold and sow discord. Obviously the person who provided aid and comfort for the false teacher also provided the means of encouragement for that false teacher to continue sowing discord in the community, hence, they become partakers of (or have fellowship with) the evil that the false teacher is perpetuating. In fact, John says that we should not even greet such a person. What if a person does not know whether someone is a false teacher or not? John deals with this problem in 1 John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." All Christians have a responsibility to try or test the one who would come to them preaching in the name of God. If their preaching is not according to the doctrine of Christ and they refuse to accept correction, then they should not be supported.

In conclusion, 2 John 9-11 is definitely applicable to us today. However, we must apply these verses appropriately and scripturally. These principles should never be applied in matters of personal disagreement of opinion, matters of personal conscience, or to unknowledgeable teachers who are willing to accept the truth of God's word when presented in a clear and loving manner. These principles **should be** applied to false teachers who deliberately cause division within the brotherhood. We should not accept these false teachers into our house, nor even bid them greeting. To do such would be to personally engage in destroying the church.

## Sunday's Sermons

For March 9th

Morning..... Christian Warfare  
Scripture ..... 2 Cor.10:4  
Evening.....Q&A  
Scripture ..... NA

## Our Record

Week of March 2nd

Sunday Class .....	74
Sunday A.M.....	83
Sunday P.M. ....	65
Wednesday .....	65
Contribution.....	\$2257.27
Budget .....	\$1760.00

## News, Notes and Prayer List



- If you are visiting with us, we welcome you to our services. We are thankful that you are here today and invite you to stay and get to know us better. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask anyone!
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Connie Atchley, Delma Johnson, Glenn Quigley, Charles Swink, Oleta Widener, Josh Wydman.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Kevin will have his camera again to take pictures today. If you have not had your picture made, we need it for our work.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- There is a list in the foyer for anyone to sign up to host the youth devotionals in their home. Please avail yourself of this opportunity to serve whether young or old!
- There will be a VBS meeting this evening to discuss teaching assignments.
- Next Sunday evening is the elders and deacons meeting.
- Tonight is our questions and answers night. We hope you will come to hear some great questions about God's word.
- Our monthly potluck will be next Sunday!
- You may have noticed that we have new tracts in the back. These tracts are for serious study to answer great questions that our friends have about the church. Please use these in your personal evangelism.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Sugar.



## Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	<b>March 9th, 2003</b>	<b>March 16th, 2003</b>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Matt Bassing	Bruce Foster
<b>Scripture:</b>	Perry Foster	Leon Duncan
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Leon Duncan	George Eddings
	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
<b>(assist)</b>	Brandon Foster	Perry Foster
	Larry Elliott	Brandon Foster
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Brent Stevens	Glenn Williams
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Bruce Foster	Larry Elliott
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Glenn Williams	Brent Stevens
<b>Scripture:</b>	Bob Moore	Brent Moore
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Smith	Dale Pinkley
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Glenn Quigley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
<b>Invitation:</b>	Bill Fort	Bob Moore
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Brandon Foster	Perry Foster
<b>Monthly Assignments</b>		
<b>Announcements</b>	Glenn Quigley	
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	Brent Stevens	
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Pat Quigley	Debbie Smith
<b>Communion Carry</b>	Leon Duncan	Ray Duncan

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