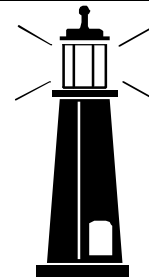


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon



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

Volume 2, Issue 22

June 6th, 2003

Local Authority

Kevin Cauley

We are blessed at the Berryville church of Christ to have a fine group of elders. The men that serve at this congregation have dedicated themselves to looking after the flock here. Working as closely as I do with the eldership, I know many of the trials and stresses that face this group of men. They bear under these trials with remarkable patience, courage, and faithfulness. The congregation with elders is a congregation that is organized as God would have the local church to be organized. Paul wrote to Titus in Titus 1:5, "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee." The churches in Crete were "wanting" or "lacking" of the desired organization that God wanted for those congregations. Hence, Titus was to appoint elders in those churches. When a congregation has a good strong eldership, many potential problems can be avoided because they have and wield the authority to deal with such problems.

In Hebrews 13:17 we read, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." We see in this verse two obligations. There is the obligation of the ruler and there is the obligation of the member.

The rulers in this context can be none other than the eldership. We read in Acts 20:28 the words of Paul in speaking to the elders at Ephesus. He says, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." In this text, the elders are described as "overseers." That is, they watch over, and

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Kevin's Korner



This past Monday was truly delightful. We spent time at the Williams house on Memorial day eating hamburgers and playing games. It was a beautiful day to do such. Horseshoes seemed to be the sport of choice, though. Everyone had a good time and we certainly appreciate the Williams for their hospitality. Thank you.

This past Tuesday was my last day to volunteer at school. Due to testing and short day classes, there were not going to be any more opportunities to do this until the end of the year. It has truly been a joy to be able to volunteer in that first grade class of Austin's. Every single one of those kids are special to me and I am going to miss them over the summer. Mrs. Summers, Austin's teacher, was very gracious to me. She and the class gave me a basket of camping trinkets for volunteering this year. It was a very thoughtful gift and I am certainly appreciative to her for the opportunity to work in her class.

This past Wednesday after several minutes of deliberation, it was decided that the ladies Bible class would not meet during the summer and that we would resume study the first Wednesday in September. This was mainly due to the fact that many of the ladies who regularly attend would be taking vacation on and off during the summer. We will resume in the fall with a study of the book of First John.

Can you believe that June is already here? We have many things scheduled for the month of June, so let's all be working toward making sure that we support our activities for this month. Friends and family day is on the 8th (that is next week!). Vacation Bible School is the 16th through the 19th (only two weeks away). We need to pre-

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pare for these events. Remember our goals! Let's work and pray that these events will be successful.

I believe that most of you have met my wife's parents, Foy and Mary Forehand. Just this past week, they picked up everything they had and moved to Hemphill, Texas. This is a small town on the Toledo Bend Reservoir which borders between Texas and Louisiana. I checked in with them this past week and they had arrived safely and were getting their things unpacked. Foy is beginning a new work for the church there and I know that they could use your prayers as they begin this new work.

The dates for our youth rally have been set for August 22nd and 23rd. We have a very special guest who is going to be doing the speaking, brother Willie Franklin. Brother Franklin recently held youth rallies for the church in Washburn and the Kansas Expressway church in Springfield. He is a capable speaker and sound in the faith. I would encourage everyone to put these dates on your calendar so that we can plan on being present for this event. We especially need to pray for the success of this activity as well.

This week, the truck from the children's home will be coming our way. If you have some things on your list that you would like to put in the pantry for the children's home, then please do that TODAY! I looked at the pantry this past week, but we can still get more in it. Let's put our best foot forward! We also have change cans in the foyer that are available for you to pick up and put your spare change in these cans for this cause. I know that they appreciate all of the efforts that we make on their behalf.

Frozen Comfort

Tom Moore

The man huddled on the cabin floor was slowly freezing to death. It was high in the Rockies in southwestern Alberta, and outside a blizzard raged. John Elliott had logged miles that day through the deep snows of the mountain passes. As he checked for avalanches and as dusk and exhaustion overcame him, he had decided to "hole up." He made it wearily to his cabin, but somewhat dazed with fatigue, he did not light a fire or remove his wet clothing. As the blizzard blasted through the cracks in the old cabin walls, the sleeping forest

ranger sank into oblivion, paralyzed by the pleasure of the storm's icy caress. Suddenly, however, his dog sprang into action, and with unrelenting whines, finally managed to rouse his near-comatose friend. The dog was John's constant companion, a Saint Bernard, one of a long line of dogs famous for their heroics in times of crisis. "If that dog hadn't been with me, I'd be dead today," John Elliott says. "When you're freezing to death, you actually feel warm all over and don't wake up because it feels good."

This story illustrates the spiritual condition of many people. They are cold spiritually and sadly oblivious to their true condition. Thankfully, we have friends who can wake us from our frozen comfort, before it is too late. Solomon put it this way, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.



For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth [or are in frozen comfort], and one convert him; Let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:19-20).

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (1 Thessalonians 5:6)

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

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look to the things within the local congregation over which they serve as elders. This is the same description we find in Hebrews. They watch for souls. The overseer is the soul-watcher, and vice versa. There is no other office within the New Testament which exhibits such qualities other than the eldership. The preacher certainly has no such authority; deacons have no such authority. Only the eldership has the authority to watch over souls. In this job, they deserve both our submission and obedience. Understanding this, we can come to no other conclusion than the fact that they have authority in this regard and this authority is given to them by the Holy Spirit.

The description of their tasks in Hebrews 13:17 is twofold. They watch for the souls of those who are under their shepherdship. They will give an account of those who are under their shepherdship. The implication of these two duties is momentous. They are responsible for making sure that we live in the way that we are supposed to live before God—they watch for our **souls**; and within this responsibility of soul-watching, they have been given authority over our lives. One day, they will stand before the chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4), and give an account of how we behaved while under their supervision. What an awesome responsibility they have, because they will testify before God and Christ as to how we lived under their authority. They will give an account; both of how they watched over our souls, and how we responded to their watchfulness. They will, the passage says, either give their account with joy or with grief. If they give their account with grief, that is unprofitable for those of us who are under their authority. We do not want those shepherds giving an account of us with grief!

Elders have been given their authority by the Holy Spirit. We should respect their judgments no less than we would respect scripture itself.

We see also in this passage that members have a divine obligation to obey and submit to the decisions of these men. When these men render a judgment over the local congregation, provided the judgment is not contradictory to God's will (Acts 5:29), we should respect that judgment no less than we would respect scripture itself. To obey and submit means nothing short of doing exactly what they request that we do in our lives. Sometimes this means that we will have to do something that may not be pleasurable to us. They may request of us to change something in our lives; they may request that we confess some fault of which we are guilty before the church. Be assured that however unpleasurable it is to respect their request NOW, it will be infinitely more unpleasurable for us in the day of judgment when they give an account for our souls, if we have not submitted to their authority.

We read in 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13 "And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves." Those who are "over" us in the Lord deserve our recognition, esteem and respect. Their work is at times demanding and difficult; let us resolve to respect their place and authority within the local congregation. Let us resolve to do what we can to submit ourselves to them to resolve any difficulties that may arise. Let us work to live in peace among our brethren. If we can resolve to do these things, and then carry them out when the opportunity so arises, we will ensure for ourselves an account by those who watched over us that will be given, not with grief, but with joy.

Sunday's Sermons

For June 1st

Morning..... **Bible Authority**
Scripture Colossians 3:17
Evening..... **Making the Right Choices**
Scripture Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Our Record

Week of May 25th

Sunday Class.....	62
Sunday A.M.	75
Sunday P.M.....	61
Wednesday	64
Contribution	\$1730.74
Budget	\$1760.00

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Brian Guess, Larry Miller, Glenn Quigley, Oleta Widener.

- We express our deepest sympathies to the family of Connie Atchley in the loss of her mother this past week. The memorial was held this past Thursday in Missouri.
- Porfirio and Carla in Costa Rica have requested prayers for their soon to be born daughter.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs. She has been ill lately. Please remember her in your prayers.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Tonight we will have our youth devotional at the Duncan's house. Everyone is requested to bring chips, drinks, and anything that goes with hamburgers and hotdogs.
- VBS, VBS, VBS is coming soon, coming soon, coming soon. Are you ready?! June 16th through 19th. Our theme: What a Friend we Have in Jesus!!! Our goal: 100 average.
- Friends and Family Day IS NEXT WEEK! You have one final week to invite everyone you know to come. Let's get out the message. Our goal: 125.
- Remember also that our monthly potluck will be next week on Friends and Family day as well. We are having BBQ. The meat will all be supplied. Please bring sides dishes and desserts.
- Our monthly questions and answers session is next Sunday night. If you need to submit a question, then please get it in the box this week.
- Saturday will be our monthly men's breakfast.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Green Beans.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	June 1st, 2003	June 8th, 2003
Song Leader:	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Matt Bassing	Bill Fort
Scripture:	Ray Duncan	Brent Moore
Lord's Table:	Brent Stevens	Bob Moore
	George Eddings	Hugh Atchley
(assist)	Jack Gentry	John Gass
	Rusty Windle	Matt Bassing
Closing Prayer	Bill Fort	Brent Stevens
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Brent Stevens
Scripture:	Brandon Foster	Sandy Nieves
Lord's Table:	Dale Pinkley	Clyde Atchley
	Matt Bassing	Larry Elliott
Closing Prayer	Bruce Foster	Leon Duncan
Wednesday		
Songs:	Hugh Atchley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	John Gass	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Kevin Cauley	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Hugh Atchley
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Leon Duncan	
Worship Coordinator	Glenn Williams	
Communion Prep	Neva Welch	Donna Henderson
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 bvcc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
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