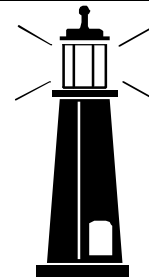


The Berryville church of Christ

# Bible Beacon



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

Volume 2, Issue 26

July 6th, 2003

## Conditioning

Kevin Cauley

The two biggest words around the south this summer will undoubtedly be, "Air Conditioning." As the summer time comes around, the temperatures rise and we see our electric bills go up from running our air conditioners to keep our domiciles cool. Have you ever thought about those two words, "Air Conditioning." We are conditioning the air that would normally be hot to be cool. We are changing what would otherwise be conditionless air into conditioned air. Hence the phrase "Air Conditioning."

Conditioning is not only something that we do with our air, but something that needs to be done with our lives as well. Paul wrote, "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." The word "discipline" in this verse has been translated "buffet" in the ASV. It is the idea of conditioning ourselves so that we will be willing to carry out the work of the Lord in our lives.

Living the Christian life is compared within the pages of the New Testament to a walk and to a race (Hebrews 12:1ff). Athletes condition their bodies on a regular basis so that they will be able to participate in the races wherein they have entered. Walkers condition their bodies by "warming up" and doing stretching exercises so that they will be ready to complete the number of laps that they walk around the track. The Christian needs to condition himself as well.

We condition ourselves by studying God's word. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). The more we study, the more we learn and grow in faith. God's word gives us everything we need to run the race and it is up to us to apply that word to our lives.

We also condition ourselves by bringing our thoughts under the control of Christ. Paul writes

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Kevin's Korner



Our vacation to the Grand Canyon was truly memorable. It seemed like we were gone for a couple of months, but when we got back it felt like we had only been gone a day. I suppose that is how this world turns. The days pass by so swift in this life and we fly away. Our beloved sister, Oleta Widener passed from this life to the next a few days before our vacation time. Her funeral was held nearly two weeks ago, but she will not soon be forgotten in my mind. Oleta was a delight to know. The Quigley's and I visited in her home on occasion. It was always kept tidy and she was a wonderful host. While Oleta's life has ended and she has flown away from this life, we will be reunited with her in the next. Oleta was a faithful member of the Lord's church. She even called before the surgery that resulted in her death to let us know that she had not been in services due to her illness and that she was sorry. There was, objectively, no need for her to be sorry. She was merely doing the best she could with the situation she had been given. Oleta will be missed in the coming days, but we shall see her soon enough.

You may have noticed the absence of Austin and Charlie by now. They went home with their grandparents (my parents) to Austin, Texas to spend a few weeks. They arrived safely there and will be back soon enough, so Mary Lynn and I are temporary empty nesters, I guess. We have been enjoying the quiet, though it is quite different and kind of hard to get used to. I am glad that they are able to spend some time with their grandparents. It is important for them to be influenced for good by other members of the family. This is something that God certainly recognizes and approves in the scriptures.

I would like to offer a word of thanks publicly to Bob Deffenbaugh for filling in during my ab-

sence. I understand that he did a wonderful job at teaching and preaching while I was gone. It is certainly a blessing to be able to call upon other faithful men in times when they are needed to help with the work. My thanks to Bob and his family for taking the time to come and work with the congregation while I was away on vacation.

It was mentioned to me after this past Wednesday night when we announced the father and son sleepover that half of the participants would not be able to attend due to absence. I also begin looking at my situation and my boys are not going to be here either, so that event will have to be postponed to a later day. There will be plenty of opportunity for this to happen in the future and we look forward to doing this at a later date.

July has come and the 4th is past us. Tonight, however, we will celebrate July 4th on the evening of the 6th with fireworks at the Williams house. Many are bringing home made ice cream (ours is in the deep freeze as we speak) to this event. We are combining our monthly youth devotional with this time as well. So we will have our devotional, ice cream social, and independence day fireworks explosional all in the same evening. If you have not made your plans to be there, yet, then please do as we will certainly have a good time together.

Last, but not least, let's all remember our youth rally which is coming up in August. Willie Franklin will be our speaker and you do not want to miss him. The dates are August 22nd, and 23rd here in Berryville. Friday night the 22nd, we will have a devotional time where we will also have meal together and play games as time allows. Saturday the 23rd will commence the "formal" period of singing and studying for the youth rally. Please get with Brent Stevens or Rusty Windle for additional details if you want to help in any way.

---

## THE CHURCH AND DENOMINATIONALISM

*John Waddey*

The denominationalism prevailing in contemporary Christendom is in sharp contrast with the church which Christ established. Consider the following:

- Christ founded his church (Matt. 16:18), but mortal men and women founded denominations.
- Christ's church was founded in Jerusalem in 33 A.D. but all denominations were founded

long afterwards, in other places.

- Christ's church wears his holy name. Paul wrote, "All the churches of Christ salute you" (Rom. 16:16). Denominations wear their own distinguishing names that honor men, doctrines or practices.
- Christ is the only head of his church (Eph. 1:22), but men are chosen to head denominations.
- Each congregation of Christ's church is overseen by its own elders (Acts 14:23). Denominations are ruled by governing bodies.
- Christ's church follows only the Bible (Matt. 28:20). Denominations are guided by creedal books written by uninspired men.
- The church that Christ built worships as he ordered in his word (John 4:24). Denominations change worship to suit the wishes of the members and leaders.
- Christ's church teaches people to be saved as Christ ordained. They must hear the gospel preached, believe it and be baptized to be saved (Mark 16:15-16). Denominations teach other ways of salvation. Some offer salvation by faith alone which Scripture clearly denies (Jas. 2:24). Others demand a Holy Spirit baptism, but the Bible knows only "one baptism" (Eph. 4:5). Some posit salvation on works of human merit. Paul plainly declares, that it is "not by works of righteous which we have done" (Eph. 2:8-9).
- Christ loves, blesses and saves his church (Eph. 5:22-25). But denominationalism is contrary to his will (I Cor. 1:10-13). Those who promote denominationalism stand condemned by Him.

We are told to "mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ..." (Rom. 16:17-18). Denominational division thwarts the dying prayer of Jesus for the unity of his people (John 17:11).

**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

# THAT TERRIBLE TONGUE

Joe Slater

Few things are opened by mistake more often than the mouth. Who among us cannot think of a dozen times we wish we had kept silent. James issues an ominous warning: "*If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless*" (James 1:26). We use bridles to control and restrain horses. How about controlling and restraining our tongues (speech)? Unless we do, James says our religion is useless.

But James, I'm a member of the Lord's church! (If you don't control your mouth, your religion is useless.) But James, I've been baptized, and I attend church services regularly! (If you don't control your mouth, your religion is useless.) But James, I'm a preacher / elder / deacon / teacher / ministry-leader / etc. (If you don't control your mouth, your religion is useless.) Are we getting the point?

Words can hurt. Scripture uses numerous expressions to demonstrate this point. Solomon wrote, "*There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health*" (Prov. 12:18). You need not physically assault someone to devastate them. Verbal brutality may leave its victims' bodies unmarked but their souls are cut to ribbons.

Of the wicked it is written, "*the poison of asps is under their lips*" (Rom. 3:13). James refers to the tongue as "an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:8). Snake venom can kill physically. Even if the person survives, some adverse effects can be permanent. Likewise, poisonous words slay the spirit. Harsh remarks, vicious rumors, even the truth spoken rudely may result in weakening or total loss of faith. I have seen church members virtually driven away by ungodly rumor-mongering, not from the world, but from their own brothers and sisters in Christ. Someone may say, "*They were wrong to let anything, no matter what, come between them and the Lord. True enough. But hear the words of the Lord: "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come. It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones"*" (Lk. 17:1, 2).

Perhaps you have heard that the tongue is slippery and hard to control, so God imprisoned it behind two sets of bars (the teeth and the lips). That illustration at least reminds us of our responsibility to control and restrain our speech. Unless we do that, our religion is useless.

(Continued from page 1)

in 2 Corinthians 10:5 that we should bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. A challenge no doubt to each one of us. However we must strive every day to maintain mastery over the thoughts of our mind.

We also condition ourselves by not conforming ourselves to the world. Satan desires to have a piece of us because he knows that we cannot serve God and mammon. So if he can just get in a little to our life, then he will have all of us. We must not let worldly things into our life. Paul writes in Romans 12:1,2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Keeping ourselves out of the influence of the world will keep us out of Satan's control.

Let us condition our Christian lives so that we may walk by faith and gain that eternal home with our Lord one day in heaven.

## Sunday's Sermons

For July 6th

**Morning.....The Greatest Message**

Scripture ..... 2 Peter 1:3

**Evening.....Four Waters**

Scripture ..... Gen 1:1, 2

## Our Record

Week of June 29th

Sunday Class ..... 48

Sunday A.M. .... 61

Sunday P.M. .... 59

Wednesday ..... 53

Contribution ..... \$1691.10

Budget ..... \$1760.00

## News, Notes and Prayer List



- We thank God for the blessing of being able to meet today to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Let us join our hearts together in this hour to glorify Him and His Son, Jesus.

- We extend a warm welcome to all of our visitors. We are grateful for your presence today. We ask that you fill out a visitors card as a reminder to us of your visit.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Summer Benedict, Susan Elliott, Trish Foster, Gail Rorex.
- After a week of itching and scratching, Susan Elliott went to the doctor and was diagnosed with a spider bite as opposed to the previously thought poison ivy. She is currently on medication for the bite and subsequent infection. Please remember the Elliotts in your prayers.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Tonight our youth devotional will be at the William's house before the annual display of pyrotechnics. We will be eating home made ice cream so be sure to come hungry!
- Questions and answers are scheduled for next Sunday evening. If you have a question for the box, make sure it gets in there by tonight.
- This coming Saturday will be our monthly men's breakfast. Please make your plans to attend.
- The Dad and Son sleepover that was scheduled for July 11th has been postponed due to the numerous absences of dads and sons who are away visiting relatives during the summer holidays.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Fabric Softener.



## Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	<b>July 6th, 2003</b>	<b>July 13th, 2003</b>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Bill Fort	Ken Smith
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Bob Moore
<b>Scripture:</b>	Brent Moore	Leon Duncan
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Ken Smith	Bruce Foster
	Rusty Windle	Hugh Atchley
<b>(assist)</b>	Sandy Nieves	Perry Foster
	Jack Gentry	Ray Duncan
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Glenn Williams	George Eddings
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Brent Stevens	Larry Elliott
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
<b>Scripture:</b>	Matt Bassing	Sandy Nieves
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	George Eddings	Hugh Atchley
	Rusty Windle	Brandon Foster
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Glenn Quigley	Bob Moore
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Hugh Atchley	Clay Bozarth
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Glenn Williams	Brent Stevens
<b>Invitation:</b>	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Bill Fort	Leon Duncan
<b>Monthly Assignments</b>		
<b>Announcements</b>	Bill Fort	
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	Glenn Quigley	
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Wanda Bozarth	Joann Bragg
<b>Communion Carry</b>	Hugh Atchley	Kevin Cauley

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](mailto:bvcc@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**