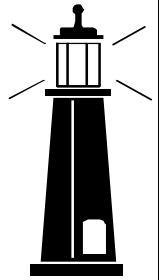


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon

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



Volume 2, Issue 33

August 24th, 2003

“Puttin’ on the Ritz”

Kevin Cauley

Perhaps you have heard the old song in the title of this article. Some of the lyrics of the song state:

If you're blue and you don't know
where to go to why don't you go
where fashion sits
Puttin' on the Ritz

Different types who wear a day
coat pants with stripes and cutaway
coat perfect fits
Puttin' on the Ritz

Dressed up like a million-dollar trooper
Tryin' hard to look like Gary Cooper (super duper)
Come let's mix where Rockefellers
walk with sticks or um-ber-ellas
in their mitts
Puttin' on the Ritz

The emphasis of this song is to have on the right clothes so that you can fit in with the right crowd. The crowd, in the song, is the high-fashion crowd. The clothes are high fashion clothes. The word "Ritz" symbolizes riches and high fashion. And when one wears such garments, the song states, one may chase away the blues.

The Bible speaks concerning wearing the right clothes and when we wear these clothes, we chase away the darkness. In Matthew 22:1-14 Jesus tells a parable of a wedding feast. In the parable, the king calls his servants to invite others to come to the wedding feast. But those who are invited do not come. The king then sends his servants into the highways and byways to invite others, both good and bad, to come to the wedding feast. When the feast was furnished with guests, the king comes in and finds one of the guests without a wedding garment. The one without the

garment is bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness. This individual did not have the right clothes and was summarily cast out.

Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven is likened unto this parable. Many need the gospel and Jesus commands his servants to go out into the highways and byways and invite all that are there both good and bad to come into the kingdom. This is the period of time in which we live now. The day will come, however, when the King will return. And when He returns, He will judge. It is important that we be prepared for that day. How do we prepare? We must make sure that we are adorned with the appropriate wedding garments. Let's notice a few things about wearing these garments, that is, "Puttin' on the Ritz."

Those who "put on the Ritz" don't go out naked! They put on their clothes. In Romans 13:14 we read, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." To be separated from the world, we must put on the clothing which is Christ! Without Christ, we are naked. But with Christ we are robed in righteousness and our sins have been covered. Ephesians 4:24 says, "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Colossians 3:10 says, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." The new man has been created in righteousness and true holiness. The new man has been renewed in knowledge after Christ's image. The new man has been robed in Christ--has put on Christ! The new man is not naked.

Those who "put on the Ritz" don't go out with the wrong clothing. They realize that to be recognized as having "put on the Ritz" they must be clothed correctly. The Bible teaches that those who are saved will wear **God's** garments--not

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man's. In Isaiah 61:10, we read, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels." In this prophecy we read that the people of God would be clothed with garments. These garments are described as garments of salvation, and robes of righteousness. These are the garments that God gives to His people. To wear some garment other than the one which God gives is to robe ourselves in a righteousness of our own and that won't save (Romans 10:3). We must wear the correct garments.

Those who "put on the Ritz" take care not to dirty up their garments so as to appear shoddy and shabby. The Bible teaches that we must keep our garments pure. We read in Revelation 3:4 "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." This passage teaches there were some who had defiled their garments. Notice Revelation 16:15 "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Failure to watch and keep our garments results in nakedness and one will not see heaven in such a spiritually clothed state. We must keep our garments clean.

The question that needs to be asked now is this: Have you put on the wedding garments? Are you robed in righteousness? Have you put on the new man? Have you been created in righteousness and true holiness? Are you renewed in knowledge after Christ's image? Do you want to remain at the wedding feast? "But," you say, "how can I know if I have put on the garments of Christ?" The scriptures give us the answer. Galatians 3:27 says, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have **put on Christ.**" When we are baptized, we put on Christ. We robe ourselves in His righteousness which comes from understanding and obeying his word (Romans 1:16, 17). When we obey His word, we are assured that we have not substituted a righteousness of our own. We put on the new man by putting to death the old man of sin, burying that old man in a watery grave, and being raised up as a new man in Christ (Romans 6:3-11). Christian baptism is the point at which we bury the old man and make alive the new. It is the point at which we are robed in Christ's righteousness through his

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Kevin's Korner



This past week has been a marvelous week in our service to God. We are making strides together to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph.4:3) and we need to continue to do this. God's word has all of the answers to life's questions and we need to depend upon all of it wholly and without reservation. This past week we started school here in Berryville. It was a good start. The students were eager and ready to go back and begin another year to learn more. With the start of this new school year, let those of us who are "out of school" consider going back to the learning desk also and making a renewed commitment to God and his word. We are never too old to study and learn God's word.

The youth rally yesterday was a wonderful success. It was reported to me that there were over 100 in attendance at one given point in time. Brother Willie Franklin did an excellent job speaking during the event. The messages were timely, practical, and important for us to maintain our relationship with the Lord. We would be amiss if we did not thank Rusty, Tiffany, Brent, and Shawna for their work in organizing and preparing for the youth rally. They did an excellent job and are thankful to have folks like them to work on such projects. There are many, MANY more who worked in some way to help with the youth rally. All of the names escape me and I am sure there were some who I would forget to mention, so I will not do so here, but you know who you are and God knows who you are and your treasures are being stored up in heaven due to your efforts here. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to make this rally a success.

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

“The Bible Doesn’t Say You Can’t...”

Gary McDade

Often, when religious practices are examined from acceptability before God and divine authorization is lacking, the statement is made, “The Bible doesn’t say you can’t...” In looking for an effective way to convey discernment about God’s laws of inclusion and exclusion, a tremendous example appears in the life of King David. Mention of it must be prefaced with the New Testament text which insists, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4). The example comes from the effort of King David to transport the ark of the covenant from Gibeah to Jerusalem and appears in 2 Samuel 6 and 1 Chronicles 13-15.

David had just been crowned as king, and the consolidation of the kingdom after the division by which it had been racked under the wicked leadership of Saul was becoming a developing reality. The relocation of the center of worship to Jerusalem would definitely assist in the unification of the nation. Not an old, used cart in which everything from produce to refuse had been hauled was used for the transportation of the Ark of the Covenant, but a brand new car was employed. As the company reached the threshing floor of Nachon, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah reached out in an effort to stabilize the ark. The Lord was angered as Uzzah touched the ark and struck him down dead.

“And David was afraid of God that day, Saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?” (1 Chron.13:12). Once the law of God was searched and studied, the answer to the king’s question was found from verses like Exodus 25:14, “and thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them” and Deuteronomy 10:8, “At that time the Lord separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day.” David learned the reason for the display of God’s wrath. He said, “For because ye did it not at the first the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order. So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to

bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel” (1 Chron.15:13-14). The law of Moses did not say the Ark of the Covenant could not be transported on a cart. And, today people should take notice of the fear of God that welled up inside of one of the most respected men of the Bible because he failed to seek God “after the due order.” The position commonly taken that begins, “The Bible doesn’t say you can’t...” is not only inadequate in determining God’s will, but it is also dangerous to the point of being fatal, as is evidenced in the case of Uzzah.

Think of this example the next time someone says, “The Bible doesn’t say you can’t have instrumental music in the worship of God today,” or “The Bible doesn’t say you can’t have women waiting on the Lord’s table,” or “The Bible doesn’t say you can’t take the Lord’s supper on Thursday night,” or “The Bible doesn’t say you can’t have a ‘praise team’ leading the singing,” or “The Bible doesn’t say you can’t break the church up into small groups instead of having an assembly on Sunday night,” or “The Bible doesn’t say you can’t clap your hands in worship to God.” If that kind of thinking had been acceptable, Uzzah would never have died as he did. As King David was afraid that day, even so many today ought to fear God for defiantly refusing to seek Him “after the due order.”

From The Southwesterner, August 10th, 2003

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

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word. It is the point at which we put on the wedding garments. Christian baptism is the point at which we **put on** Christ. If you believe that you put on Christ before baptism, then you put on the wrong garment. You need to take that one off and put the right one on. There is only one baptism (Ephesians 4:5). There is only one garment to wear for the wedding feast. Will you be wearing it when the King returns? Have you “Put on the Ritz” of Christ, today.













Sunday’s Sermons

For August 24th

Morning **Justice**
 Scripture Acts 17:30, 31
Evening **Communication**
 Scripture Ephesians 4:1-3

Our Record

Week of August 17th

							
							
	Sunday Class						57
	Sunday A.M.						76
	Sunday P.M.						57
	Wednesday						68
	Contribution						\$1914.00
	Budget.....						\$1760.00
							

News, Notes and Prayer List



• On this wonderful new Lord's Day, let us thank God for blessing us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:4).

- We welcome our visitors! If you are visiting, please fill out an attendance card and stay a little so we can meet you.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Michael Collins, Ruth Hill, Curtis Hull, Norma O'Conner, Charles Pogue, Charles Swink, Charles Taylor.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Our fifth Sunday singing at the nursing home is next week. As I mentioned last Sunday, we have a great opportunity to show these folks that we love them and care about them. We also have a great opportunity to be pleasing to God. James 1:27 still says, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."
- Our ladies Bible class is just around the corner. The first Wednesday morning in September will be here in only two and a half weeks! We will be studying the book of 1 John. I am looking forward to renewing these times of study with our wonderful ladies of this congregation.
- Ladies, also remember that your first scheduled ladies time out is September 12th, at Pizza Hut at 4:00 PM. Our ladies work hard and deserve time that they can spend together as sisters in Christ. Guys, let's do what we can to make sure they have the opportunity to go to this event.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Canned Chicken.



Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	August 24th, 2003	August 31st, 2003
Song Leader:	Bill Fort	Larry Elliott
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Glenn Quigley
Scripture:	Brandon Foster	Sandy Nieves
Lord's Table:	Leon Duncan	Bruce Foster
	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
(assist)	Brent Moore	Jack Gentry
	George Eddings	Matt Bassing
Closing Prayer	Larry Elliott	Hugh Atchley
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Dale Pinkley
Scripture:	Matt Bassing	Perry Foster
Lord's Table:	Dale Pinkley	Ray Duncan
	Brandon Foster	Sandy Nieves
Closing Prayer	Brent Moore	Bob Moore
Wednesday		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Larry Elliott
Invitation:	Brent Stevens	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Bob Moore
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Kevin Cauley	
Worship Coordinator	Larry Elliott	
Communion Prep	Lucille Fort	Shawna Stevens
Communion Carry	Bruce Foster	Perry Foster

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:
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