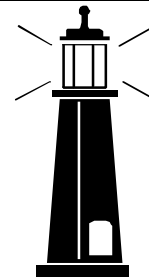


The Berryville church of Christ



# Bible Beacon

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

Volume 2, Issue 37

September 21st, 2003

## The Simple Truth of Mark 16:16

*Kevin Cauley*

When it comes to the question of whether baptism is prerequisite for salvation, Mark 16:15, 16 stands out as a clear beacon in contrast to the fog of the doctrines and teachings of men today. The words of Jesus as recorded by inspiration of the Holy Spirit in this passage ring clear and true among the cacophony of sounds heard within the religious world today. Jesus says, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."<sup>NKJV</sup>

From an honest inspection of this passage, one will come to the conclusion that Jesus expected his disciples to preach that those lost in sin could not be saved until after they were baptized. Two prerequisites are mentioned in this text: believing, and baptism. They are joined together by the conjunction "and" indicating that both are required to lead to the predicate of the sentence, "will be saved." The language is simple and clear. When used with any other statement of English, the meaning is plain. If I were to advertise in the paper, "He who memorizes and sings the Star Spangled Banner will receive \$1,000,000.00," there would be people waiting by my front door the next morning expecting to be paid. If you were to cash a check at the bank, the clerk would tell you to "write out the check and sign it and you will receive your cash." No one misunderstands that. In each sentence, two things are required to receive the desired results. In the first, it is 1) memorization, and 2) singing. In the second, it is 1) writing the check, and 2) signing it. So also is it with Jesus statement. He who would be saved must 1) believe, and 2) be baptized. There is just no other way around it.

This simply phrasing of words so clearly exposes many who teach otherwise today. Notice

how the order of these words changes under a different teaching of salvation. Those who believe that one is saved before baptism but after faith (i. e. faith only) would have Jesus say, "He who believes will be saved, and then may be baptized." But this is clearly not what Jesus says. Those who believe that infants are saved through baptism would have Jesus say, "He who is baptized will be saved, and then may believe." Again, this is not what Jesus plainly said. And then those who hold that all will be saved regardless of either would have Jesus say, "He who is saved, may believe and be baptized." In each of these cases, the order of Jesus original statement has been modified to support a particular view of salvation. There is only one view that fits the passage. That is that the person who believes, and then based upon that faith, is baptized, will after the point of baptism, be saved. There is just no getting around the truth of this passage.

Perhaps the most common objection to such clear and simple language is the next statement that Jesus makes: "but he who does not believe will be condemned." Many say, "But Jesus didn't say that if you were not baptized you would be condemned." And yes, strictly speaking, Jesus did not say those particular words. But let's look at the validity of this argument. Using the same examples above, let's suppose a person comes to my house with a piece of paper with the lyrics of the Star Spangled Banner written out and sings the song from those lyrics. Would he receive the \$1,000,000.00? Of course he wouldn't. He did not memorize the song and that was one of the requirements. Must one fail in both requirements to fail in the whole? No. One needs only to fail in one requirement to miss out on the whole. Supposing I go to the bank and make out the check, but fail to sign it, will the cashier give me my cash? She will say, "Please sign the check." But in protest I say, "But the check is made out. The amount is there." Such would be to no avail, because it must both be made out and signed to get the cash. Why would Jesus need to deny both? He only needs to deny one to show that someone

will be condemned. Why, do you suppose, did Jesus say that the person who does not believe would be condemned? For this simple reason, if a person doesn't believe, they certainly are not going to be baptized. In fact, the Bible teaches exactly this, that one who refuses to be baptized is really one who refuses to believe. Luke 7:29, 30 says the following about those who refused John's baptism. "And when all the people heard him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him." Refusing John's baptism is equated to refusing the counsel of God. Why should we not understand that refusing Jesus baptism would be considered by Jesus to be of similar consequence?

There are also those who try to suggest that Mark 16:9-20 was not part of the Bible. Many newer versions have placed a footnote or marginal reading that says that these verses are not found in the some oldest manuscripts of the New Testament. And such is true. Two of the oldest manuscripts do not have these verses. However, in one of these manuscripts is a blank space large enough to fit these verses. Also within that same one, the book of Revelation is missing. Would we deny that the book of Revelation is of God? The same reasoning would have us do so. There are, however, many ancient manuscripts that do include this text and many ancient translations as well. However, the bottom line is that when all is said and done, those verses are still selected by the translators to be part of the text of their version. Yes, they make a footnote, but when it comes to placing the words in the text, they are there. Why is that? It is because the translators recognize the authority of those verses. There may be a question as to whether they were written by the penman Mark, but as to their authority and inspiration, there is no doubt; the verses are in the Bible and so they appear in your Bible as well.

Sadly, there will be many people on the day of judgment who stand before Christ having confessed him as Lord (Matthew 7:21-23), but having failed to do the will of the Father in understanding and respecting this very simple verse, Mark 16:16. Will you be one of those people? If your heart is tender toward the will of God within the gospel of Christ, you will come to the plain and simple understanding of this verse. Jesus could not have made it any plainer than this. Won't you be believe and be baptized to receive salvation today?

## Kevin's Korner



While I was suffering from allergies this week and did not make many of my usual rounds, there were still several activities that took place in which I participated. Two of those special activities were the volunteers banquet at the Berryville Community Center and the Spaceship Derby of our local Cub Scout pack. Both were very enjoyable events and we had a wonderful time attending.

You may have noticed that we have changed quarters in our classes. Brent Stevens is teaching our young men and Shawna is teaching our young ladies. Brent's class involves instruction on how to lead in worship. Shawna's class involves special instruction for young ladies in their roles of service. Ken Smith is teaching our adult class on Wednesday evening. We are studying the minor prophets there. All of our teachers do an outstanding job. Let's be sure to give them a word of thanks next time we see them.

We have a few opportunities for evangelism coming up. Our gospel meeting with John Stuckey will be beginning two weeks from today. I am certainly looking forward to hearing John speak as I am sure many of you are as well. Let's invite our friends and family to this time of study together.

We also have "House to House and Heart to Heart" to put out. This paper gets sent out to 1000 homes within Berryville every two months. Many people in the community comment on what a nice layout it is. If you have some friends who don't get it, take some extra copies with you to them this week.

Ken will be communicating more with us in the coming weeks about our efforts of evangelism. Let's all resolve to participate in any way we can.

**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

# Keep the Worship Simple

*Hershel Dyer*

Perhaps you have had this experience. You invited a friend to attend one of our worship services. He or she came, and afterwards you asked, "Well, what did you think?" After some hesitation the visitor said, "I don't know exactly how to put this, but your worship services seemed a little strange. I don't mean any offense, but I'm accustomed to a choir doing most of the singing, and I surely do miss the organ - or at least a piano."

With such a reaction, and sometimes it may be much more critical than the foregoing, you feel a little embarrassed and even inclined to apologize for the *simplicity* of our worship. DON'T DO IT!!

The simple worship of the early church was quite surprising to pagan visitors. Indeed, this very fact occasioned the enmity of unbelievers.

"Another circumstance that irritated the Romans against the Christians, was the simplicity of their worship, which resembled in nothing the sacred rites of any other people. They had no sacrifices, temples, images, oracles, or sacerdotal orders: and this was sufficient to bring upon them the reproaches of an ignorant multitude, who imagined that there could be no religion without these."

-Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, p.30.

When we confine the acts or items of our religious devotion and exercise to those taught and exemplified in the New Testament the modern religious world does think we are indeed strange. However, such visitors today rarely accuse and react as some did in the days of old Rome.

"The simplicity of the primitive worship, contrasted with the pomp of paganism, was striking. It was concluded by the heathen, that they who had neither altar, victim, priest, or sacrifice, must be atheists, and without God in the world."

## Sunday's Sermons

**For September 21st**

**Morning**.....**Discipleship**  
Scripture ..... John 15:1-8  
**Evening**.....**Death of Aaron**  
Scripture .....Numbers 20:

-Haweis' Church History, p.182.

The suggestion of any person, member or visitor, as to how we can make our assemblies more edifying and helpful, is always welcome. However, before we can follow any person's idea we must ask, "Does this accord with the teaching of the New Testament?"

-Tulsa, OK



## What Says our Life

*Carl W. Hanson*

We cannot teach what we do not know,  
Nor can we lead where we do not go.

We must be steadfast here below  
To not get caught up in life's flow.  
But help the lost tossed to and fro  
To see the Way of truth to know,  
To see the hope Christ can bestow,  
Life filled with joy to overflow.

As lights for God we are to glow  
While in His truth, we steady grow.  
We will be known by the fruit we show  
In the things we do and the seeds we  
sow.

(9/17/03)



## Our Record

**Week of 9/14**

Sunday Class.....	58
Sunday A.M. ....	70
Sunday P.M.....	61
Wednesday .....	61
Contribution .....	\$1594.50
Budget .....	\$1760.00

## News, Notes and Prayer List



• We welcome all of our visitors to our services today. Please take time to get to know us. Stay around after our services for our potluck today! We are glad you are here. Please fill out a visitors card when you get a chance.

- Our Fall gospel meeting will be here soon. Remember the dates October 5th through the 8th. Sunday service times are the same and on the week-nights we will meet at 7:00 PM. Are you inviting your friends? Here is an opportunity for us to evangelize. Let's get our invitations out and about.
- There are flyers for the gospel meeting on the podium in the foyer.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Michael Collins, Bill Fort (surgery tomorrow), Curtis and Opal Hull, Preston Jones, Charles Swink, Charles Taylor.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- The regularly scheduled elders and deacons meeting will be this evening. If you have anything that needs to be discussed please see one of these men.
- Our monthly potluck is today! We hope you will all stay around for a time of food and fellowship.
- Tonight after services we will be putting together the next issue of House to House and Hear to Heart. I get good comments every month from the community on this paper. Let's take a few of the extras with us to pass out to friends who don't get them! Here is another way to evangelize!
- The Pantry Item for this week is Paper Plates.



## Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	<b>September 21st, 2003</b>	<b>September 28th, 2003</b>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Bob Moore	Leon Duncan
<b>Scripture:</b>	Perry Foster	Brandon Foster
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Glenn Quigley	George Eddings
	Matt Bassing	John Gass
<b>(assist)</b>	Brent Stevens	Perry Foster
	Bruce Foster	Raymond Kimes
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Matt Bassing	Ray Duncan
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Glenn Williams	Clay Bozarth
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Bruce Foster	Dale Pinkley
<b>Scripture:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Brent Moore
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Ray Duncan	Ken Smith
	John Gass	Bob Moore
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Jack Gentry	Glenn Quigley
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Bruce Foster
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	John Gass	Leon Duncan
<b>Invitation:</b>	Leon Duncan	Bill Fort
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Ken Smith	Matt Bassing
<b>Monthly Assignments</b>		
<b>Announcements</b>	Larry Elliott	
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	Bob Moore	
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Trish Foster	Debbie Duncan
<b>Communion Carry</b>	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 [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**