

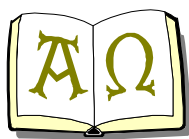


# The Country Preacher's Newsletter

<http://www.countrypreacher.com/pdf/newsltr.pdf>

Welcome to the second edition of "The Country Preacher's Newsletter," a biweekly publication of "Country Preacher.com." In addition to regular features such as sermon outlines, research materials, brotherhood events, suggested reading, computer products and software, this issue will also address **computer viruses, virus hoaxes and e-mail chain letters.**

Some of the recipients of the first e-mail edition reported difficulty in reading it. All those reporting problems were using an older America Online or Netscape browsers. I suggest that you upgrade your current browser to the latest version by logging on to the publisher's Internet Web site. Virtually all browsers can be upgraded free of charge. The e-mail edition of the Newsletter will not contain special characters or HTML language. You may read and download a formatted version of the Newsletter from the "Suggested Reading" page of <http://www.countrypreacher.com>. If you find this Newsletter useful, please email a copy to your friends.



## Sermon Outlines and Other Articles of Interest

### Everyone Has An Opinion

Randall F. Matheny

"That's just your opinion, and everybody has an opinion." Have you ever heard anyone say that or something like it? Perhaps even you? It seems to be said more often regarding to the Bible than anything else. It is true that there are myriad opinions which circulate in the religious world of our day, resulting for many in bewildered confusion, abject apathy, rejection of any objective standard for truth or a rigid, obstinate refusal to reason regardless of the evidence presented. It's no wonder that "church" has become "pot luck," an "everyone bring your own" type of affair. It may seem that churches are hopelessly divided, but there remains that which we can do to keep from contributing to the problem: *"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Prove yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified?"* (2 Cor. 13:5; cf. 1 Cor. 4:6; Col. 2:6-10). The only infallible standard by which to examine ourselves, and formulate our opinions remains the Bible.

In spite of the value that we each place upon our own opinions, not all opinions are equal. Read Elijah's trial of the false prophets: "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between

two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." (1 Kings 18:21). Further reading reveals that the simple difference between the "two opinions" was that one was wrong and one was right. Those who base their opinions upon a faithful, diligent study of God's word have the only valid, defensible position. Further, convictions arising from that study will be well grounded in truth. To contribute to the cure, rather than to the disease let us each determine to accept God's word as authoritative and final.



2. Sermon: "God's View of Sin," Randall F. Matheny  
<http://www.countrypreacher.com/sermons/sin.doc>

3. Article: "Decent," Skip Andrews  
<http://www.countrypreacher.com/sermons/andrews1.doc>

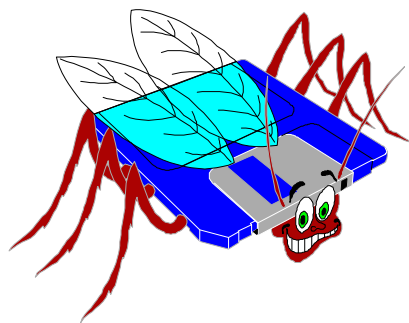
4. Research: "An Overview of Hinduism," Randall F. Matheny  
<http://www.countrypreacher.com/sermons/Hinduism.doc>



## Ho-Ho-Hoaxes and E-mail Chain Letters

I sometimes receive upwards of fifty e-mail messages a day and some of them are invariably warnings of "e-mail viruses" or aggravating chain letters passed on by the good intentioned.

Although there certainly are some e-mail transmitted viruses to be concerned about, such as the recent Melissa and Papa Macro viruses, most of the messages I have received turned out to be hoaxes. One of the most pervasive was the "Bill Gates Hoax" suggesting that there would be a reward for passing the message on to others.



There are several excellent virus information sites on the WWW that list real viruses as well as hoaxes. It would be helpful if everyone who receives one of these e-mail warnings from a friend or acquaintance would connect to one of the following sites to verify the accuracy of the warning:

**Symantec Antivirus Research Center**

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/>

**Dr. Solomon's Virus Central**

<http://www.drsolomon.com/vircen/>

**DataFellows Virus Information Center**

<http://www.datafellows.com/vir-info/>

**Stiller Research Virus Information**

<http://www.stiller.com/>

**Virus Bulletin Home Page**

<http://www.virusbtn.com/>

To view a more thorough list of Virus Information Centers, got to <http://www.countrypreacher.com/sctech.html> and click on "Computer Virus Information."

According to CAIC, operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, hoaxes can usually be identified by two known factors that make

a successful virus hoax: (1) technical sounding language, and (2) credibility by association. Credibility by association refers

to whom sent the warning. A further indication of a possible hoax is if the warning urges you to pass it on to your friends. Visit CAIC's list of known hoaxes at <http://www.ciac.org/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>.

It's always safer to err on the side of caution, but before you contribute to the flood of useless e-mail messages, check it out!



**Brotherhood Events**

<http://www.countrypreacher.com/calendar.html>

**7th Annual Southeastern Pennsylvania Lectureship**

April 18-21, 1999. "*Nothing But The Blood.*" Contact: Emmitt Channell, Director. Coventry Hills Church of Christ, 1339 S Hanover St, Pottstown, PA 19464 (610)326-4028 <chcc@fast.net>

**13th Annual Greater Kanawha Valley Lectures**

August 3-6, 1999. "*Hope: The Confidence of Christianity.*" Contact: Sonny Davis <NDavis4120@aol.com> or Jim Brinkley <jmbrink@email.msn.com>, CO-directors. Washington Street Church of Christ, PPO Box 117, Saint Albans, WV 25177 (304)727-0761.



**News You Can Use**

<http://www.countrypreacher.com/news.html>

Authentic information on new computer viruses will be linked to the "News You Can Use" page. Since I have more than a passing interest in India, you'll find several links to Indian news publications. I will add links for news from other countries as they become known to me.

A freeware Y2K diagnostic utility and a freeware fix may be downloaded at <http://www.RightTime.com>, or by sending an e-mail message to <GTBecker@RightTime.com>. Visit the "Y2K Neurotic's Reading Room" at <http://www.countrypreacher.com/y2k.html> for late breaking news on the Y2K Bug.



**Business Directory for Members**

<http://www.countrypreacher.com/business.html>

If you're like me you prefer to do business with brethren whenever possible. Please send an email message to: <directory@countrypreacher.com>, with the Subject: Registration Form Request. A form will be automatically sent to you, so you can make it available to members of your congregation who own or operate businesses and would like to be listed on the Internet free of charge. Completed electronic forms may be returned to <directory@countrypreacher.com>, faxed to (814)728-8775, or mailed to PO Box 911, Warren, PA 16365. New listings to date include "Good News Enterprises," and "Scandia Technologies."



**Suggested Reading**

<http://www.countrypreacher.com/reading.html>

"Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross," by Norman L. Geisler, Abdul Saleeb. (Paperback) \$14.39 at Amazon.com, is among the best books on world religions that I have read within the past few years. Needless to say, reviews from Muslims are less than favorable. However, I found the book easy to read, enlightening and useful in dealing with stock Muslim arguments. According to the Saudi Arabian Embassy there are more than 5 million Muslims in the U.S.A., and counting. This book should be in every preacher's library. Go to <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/countrypreacher> and search by author or title.



**The Country Preacher's General Store**

<http://www.countrypreacher.com/store.html>

The General Store is starting on the proverbial "shoestring." Although the store does not yet have an inventory (that will come later this year), I would like to make the unique offer of doing your shopping for you. If you are in the market for Bibles, books, computers or software, and can afford to wait two or three days for shipment in order to enjoy significant savings, visit the General Store page and follow the instructions given there. My goal is to significantly beat the

best price you have found to date in order to do business with you. While you're there, please take a little time to download and complete the Survey.

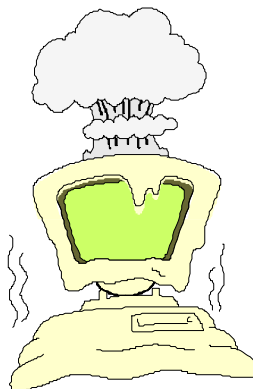


**Computer Products and Software**

<http://www.countrypreacher.com/sharwar/e/>

The Shareware Pick of the Month for April is: "PrivateExe,"

by MidStream, Inc. PrivateEXE provides the ability to password protect Windows executable files in both 32-bit and 16-bit formats. PrivateEXE modifies existing .EXE files so the program first asks the user for a password and doesn't start unless the correct password is entered. One excellent feature is that PrivateEXE does not change the registry or create hidden files. It works with Win'95, Win '98 and NT regardless of installed file system (NTFS, FAT, FAT32, etc.) or network configuration. Requirements: Windows 95/98/NT. Download Size: 152 KB. SHAREWARE: Free to try for 30 days, \$29.95 to register.



**Affordable Online Training for Every Skill Level**

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Most people grossly under use much of their software, primarily due to difficult to understand documentation and/or lack of time to read and digest a manual. Most people would also be surprised to learn what modern, sophisticated software can do to make their work easier. Online, intuitive training may be the answer you or your secretary are looking for. Visit the Hand Technologies link above and browse around. Send me an e-mail message if I can be of help.



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