

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 11, 2018



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF WORSHIP

by David Gulledge

Why do you come to worship? Is it to give something or to get something? Neither is wrong, in fact, both are to be expected and done by all. The problem comes when Christians focus only on getting something out of "worship." They are takers. They want to be encouraged, edified, leave worship feeling good, programs that focus on them, and when a congregation doesn't deliver, then they move on. However, it is only when we "give" in worship do we "get" something in return. Or let me say it this way, we only get out of worship what we put into worship. Worship may focus on God, but it is designed to benefit

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & fellowship for lunch every Sunday!

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell Joe Owen

Andy Ratliff Tim Wilkes, II

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

the worshiper also. God does not need your worship, but He deserves your worship. God is still God even if no one worships Him; but we worship Him because He is such. So how can we get the most out of worship?

Remember the true purpose of worship. As stated in the recent issue of the *Gospel Advocate*, **“Worship is an outward expression of adoration for God, designed by Him and conveyed to us through His Word. As a result, Christians benefit individually and collectively from worshipping in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24), inwardly strengthening the soul of each who participates while building up the body of Christ.”** I understand what people mean when they say they are going “to church,” but in reality, they are going to worship. The people are the church, and so it is impossible for people to “go” to something they are. The church is the body of Christ, the body of Christ is the people, and the people assemble together in order to worship God. Worship is only a part of the church. The church is supposed to be active in worship, evangelism, and benevolence, and maybe we do not get anything out of worship because we are thinking about it all wrong. Our perception of something can affect the outcome. When we think about coming to “church” one day a week, then maybe we do not live like the church the other six days; because after all, “church is on Sunday.” So, what if we start thinking about the FACT that we are the church (1 Corinthians 12), and WE are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13), and WE are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16), and then WE start seeing worship as something that we need to do, and something that WE get to do as God’s children. Then, I believe that WE will get more out of it. Worship is more than sitting in a pew going through the five authorized acts. It is gathering at the foot of God’s throne and “kissing toward” (literal definition of worship) the King of kings.

Do not put worship on a check list. If you are like me, then you create a checklist of things that you need to get done during the week. In fact, I have a checklist on my computer that I make out every Monday morning with the things that I need to get done that week. There is a sense of satisfaction when

I cross something off of that list, and I think, "It is done, now on to the next project." Many people view worship this way. "Well, I have to go to worship." Check! Christianity is not a life that consists of checkmarks. This mentality will affect your worship and could be spiritually devastating. Make worship a priority, and gathering with the saints a blessing, instead of a burden. When Jesus went to the cross, He did not put it on a checklist. When we put worship on a checklist, we might be going through the motions while our heart is far from Him (Matthew 15:8).

Prepare yourself. We prepare ourselves for a lot of things: sports, trips, get-togethers, reunions, weddings, etc. When someone has a ballgame, they purchase the proper clothing, attend practice, get all their equipment together, prepare themselves mentally, and arrive early to stretch and warm up. However, when it comes to worship, we stay up too late Saturday night, sleep too late Sunday morning, rush to get dressed, and skip breakfast or grab something as we run out the door. What if we prepared better? What if we prepare our clothes the night before, get good sleep, wake up earlier, eat breakfast (if you are a breakfast person), pray and prepare ourselves mentally, avoid watching TV or listening to worldly music Sunday morning, and completely give ourselves to preparation because we are about to enter God's presence in worship. My point is simply this: why do we take other things more seriously than worship? Why do we prepare for everything else and not for worship? We are tardy for Bible class and worship, but what if we are consistently tardy for school or work? What would happen? Maybe we need to examine our priorities and start preparing ourselves better for worship and to worship.

Worship is the most important thing that you will do today, or even all week, so give it your all. Give God your best, because after everything that He has done, He truly deserves nothing less. The more you give, the more you will receive in return. It truly is a beautiful thing when the church worships in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). So, ask yourself the question, "What am I putting in?"

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Lara & Leah Angel; Sherry Gaines; Wiley Tuggle; Clarence & Faye Edwards.

Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters

Family & Friends

Jeff & Janie Brister, both had recent heart operations; **Jettie Craft family**, Sammy's aunt that died recently; **Darrell Martin**, Chris' father, has leukemia and prostate cancer, receiving preventative treatments; **Joy Angel**, continual health problems and recent family problems; **Eddie Honecutt**, Carl's brother, recent blood clot near heart, now home; **Dwayne Honeycutt**, Carl's brother, recent hospital visit, now on dialysis; **Myrtle McNabb**, Suzanne's mom.

Birthdays

3/6 Emma Wofford
3/9 Ginger Bayless
3/9 Jan Daniel
3/13 Carl Zluticky
3/21 Ella Brown
3/22 Weslyn Wadsworth
3/24 Johnny Bayless
3/29 Payton Jackson
3/31 Beverly Hays

Get Involved!

Providence Place Devo: TODAY, 2 PM

Coldwater Work Day: Mar 17, 9 AM

Bible Bowl @ Looxahoma: Mar 17, 4 PM
2 Timothy 1 – 4, quizzes online at
www.TheBibleDomain.com

MSOP Lectureship: Mar 25 – 29
See flyer on bulletin board

Sen. Health & Rehab Devo: Mar 28, 10 AM

Coldwater Singing Night: Mar 28, 7 PM

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, March 11

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeffrey Ferrell
Announcements	Jim Jackson
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Chris Martin
	Andy Ratliff
Assist	Marc Strickland

Opening Prayer	Will Brooks
Sermon	Billy Bland
Closing Prayer	Clifton Angel
	Tim Meredith

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Kevin Dixon
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Chris Martin
	Andy Ratliff
Closing Prayer	Tim Wilkes, II

Wednesday, March 14

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Jerry Davis
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jim Jackson

TECH:	John Wofford
HALL:	Marc & Ashley Strickland