

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 26, 2013



## "I Feel Fine!"

There are some physical ailments that begin in secret. There are no immediate symptoms. Yet the illnesses, like some cancers, may be silently wreaking havoc on one's body. Sometimes one who is seriously sick may proclaim, "I feel fine!" Sometimes such destruction has been caused that by the time it is detected, it is too late to correct the problem. Sometimes the problem can be mended but with great pain, surgeries, and treatments.

Is it possible to suffer from the spiritual ailment of sin and be unaware of it? Today, sin occurs when one transgresses the commandments of the New Testament (1 John 3:4). Sin occurs "unknowingly" when a person is not allowing God's Word to train his conscience. Jesus said that the scribes and Pharisees had developed their own "righteousness" (Matthew 5:20). In other words, what was right and wrong to them did not align with what was right and wrong to God. Following His statement in Matthew 5:20, Jesus went on to correct many of their false teachings and misconceptions. The former Saul, now known as the apostle Paul, had persecuted the Lord's church. He even had some put to death. Yet, he had done it in "all good conscience" (Acts 23:1). Saul was doing what he thought was right. That did not make it right. What God says is right, is right. What God says is wrong, is wrong. Therefore, it should be our desire to train our consciences with God's Word.

(continued...)

*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 & Pew Packers  
each Sunday at 12:30

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### ELDERS

Billy Bland

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

(...continued from front page)

The principle above is found multiple times in the Proverbs. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts” (Proverbs 21:2). “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15). And so, what are we to do? “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6). If we want to be complete (spiritually healthy), we must examine ourselves by God’s definition for doing what is right (2 Timothy 3:16–17). For, if we continue saying spiritually, “I feel fine!” sin may be wreaking havoc on our consciences, progressing as it does (Psalm 1). Have you had your spiritual checkup lately?

—written by *Clifton Angel*

## Shootings, Bombings, Tornadoes, & God?

It is an age-old question: Why do we suffer? And beyond that is this: Why do good people suffer? A comprehensive understanding would require a knowledge that we cannot have—the omniscience of God. But I believe there are three simple truths that will help us understand a little better why suffering happens. They are: freewill, cause and effect, and natural laws.

God created human beings with freewill—the ability to choose. And in compliance with logic, he does not force their choice. God once told the Israelites, “I have set before you life and death ... therefore choose life” (Deuteronomy 30:19). Ultimately, that’s the same that he said to Adam, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:16–17). God has always given man the ability to choose, but he also has always informed man of the consequences (see the Bible).

God created, putting natural laws into place. The fact that there are “natural laws” is a testimony to God as Creator and his wonderful design. “The heavens declare the glory ...

... of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork” (Psalm 19:1). Such laws as gravity, thermodynamics, electrodynamics, and magnetics. Too technical? Perhaps. But we can at least think about gravity. We know what will happen if we jump off of a building.

Also among God’s creation is the true concept of cause and effect. It was alluded to in freewill and certainly is included in natural laws. Every action has a reaction. Every cause has a consequence. Perhaps you have heard, “No man is an island.” Meaning, my actions effect others.

Now, let’s bring these all together and conclude with some reasons as to why we suffer:

1. Sometimes we suffer as a result of our own actions. All three principles listed above are in effect here. If I choose to do drugs, there are adverse consequences.
2. Sometimes we suffer as a result of the actions of others. They too have freewill, and they too live in a world where natural laws and cause and effect are present.
3. Sometimes we suffer as a result of being in the path of natural laws running their course. Yes, this involves our choices, but may occur even in light of good choices. It is not an evil choice to stand under a ledge, where, unbeknown to you, there is a large, loose rock that is subject to the law of gravity.

Suffering does happen, and it will continue to happen in this life. May I encourage us to be careful when we attempt to judge God’s nature and love, based upon experiences of grief? James said, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials” (James 1:2). He also said, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17).

—written by Clifton Angel

## Sermon Review

### Sing

(Colossians 3:16)

- I. The Prevalence of Singing
- II. The Power of Singing

### God’s Glory

(Ephesians 1:12)

- I. Defined
- II. Described
- III. Applied

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Sara Norris**, back home after having gall bladder complications; **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**; **Sue Cobern**; **Helen Bowman**; **Clifton Angel**, thyroid cancer, surgery will be June 19.

### **OpenDoor Ministry Fishers of Men Far East Missions**

#### Family & Friends

**Steve Angel**, Clifton's uncle, had multiple strokes Friday; **Tasha Higginbotham**, Mindy's cousin, in need of a kidney transplant; **Jim Murrell**, successful heart transplant; **Bob Spurlin**; **Kam Spencer**, multiple health problems; **Andy Jones**, esophagus cancer; **Ally Jo Kelly**, toddler with leukemia, granddaughter of Terry's cousin. **Julie Jones**, friend of Inez, in hospice care; **Beech family**; **West, TX** residents and fertilizer plant owner and other brethren in that area; **Frank Chamberlain family**; **Sharon Free**, lady that lost her son to drug overdose; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**, **Annette Cates**; **Noah Judd**; **Kenneth Webb**, **Carly Wright**, 3 yr. old with stage 3 cancer in liver area; **John Simpson and family**; **Joe & Josephine Johnston**, and their sons, Charles and Chris; **Nicholas Franks**; **Frederick Bland**; **Barbara Denton**, friend of Molly, stage 3 cervical cancer. **Brigman Family**; **Janice Jenkins**, co-worker to Beverly Hayes, rare form of cancer. **Carla Carlson**; **Greg Myers**, **Matthew Canada**; **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, cancer; **Doris Easley**; **Curtis A. Cates**; **Eli Williams**; **Ray Maples**; **Wayne Collinworth**; **Andrew Hagedwood**; **Janie Brister**; **Chuck Tharp**; **Renee Loya**; **Aubree Harris**; **Virginia Mayfield**; **Peyton Harville**; **David Bragg**.

#### Birthdays

5/6	Dylan Moore	5/22	Brisa Davis
5/7	Rebecca Brown	5/24	Anna Johnson
5/15	Andy Ratliff	5/25	Davis Johnson

#### Anniversaries

5/15	Jason & Ginger Bayless
5/17	Joe & Leigh Anne Owen
5/19	Seth & Janice Daniel
5/22	Troy & Sue Cobern
5/23	Johnny & Stephanie Bayless
5/24	Bill & Claire Easley
5/26	Jimmy & Virginia Sowell
5/31	Billy & Terry Bland

## Get Involved!

**Coldwater Singing Night -- May 29 -- 7 PM**

**Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- June 2**

**Independence Gospel Meeting -- June 2 -- 5**  
Preaching, Eric Owens

**Coldwater Trade Days Booth -- June 8**  
Sign up sheet on table in foyer

**Coldwater VBS -- June 9 -- 13**  
6:30 -- 8:00 each night

**Sardis Lake Christian Camp -- June 16 -- 22**  
Apply online at [www.sardislakechristiancamp.org](http://www.sardislakechristiancamp.org)

**Thyatira VBS -- June 23 -- 27**

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, May 26

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jerry Davis
Announcements	Jared Brown
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
	Billy Bland
Assist	Tren House
	Jeremy Moore
Opening Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jim Jackson

#### Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
	Jeremy Moore
Closing Prayer	Ron Johnson

### Wednesday, May 29

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Jerry Davis
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jared Brown