

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

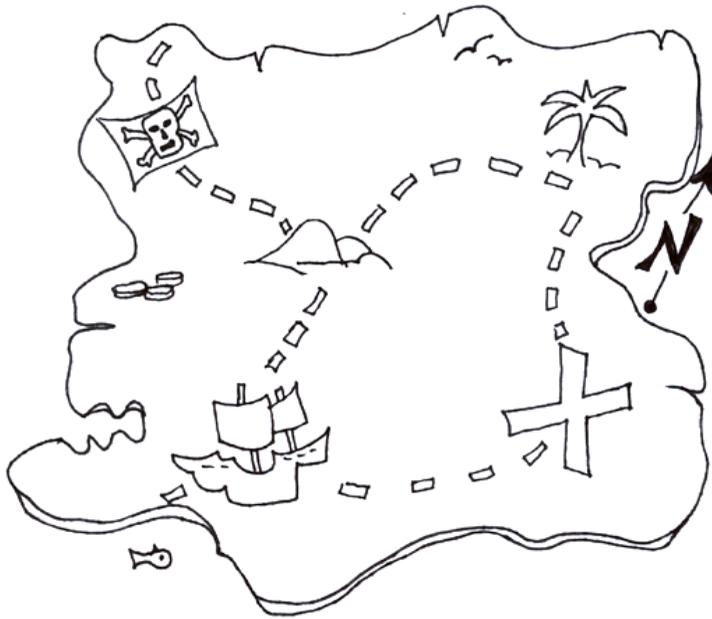
June 10, 2012



Thanks to all who are making this great event possible!

## *Coldwater* CHURCH OF CHRIST VBS

*The Treasure of the Forgotten Island:  
Searching for Gems in Proverbs*



**June 10 - 14**

Begins at 6:30PM each night

Classes for ALL ages!

*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  
on 1st & 3rd Sundays at  
4:15 p.m.

P.O. Box 321

2008 Hwy. 306

(1.2 miles east of I-55)

Coldwater, MS 38618

(662) 622-7951

[emailus@coldwatercofc.com](mailto:emailus@coldwatercofc.com)

[www.coldwatercofc.com](http://www.coldwatercofc.com)

### 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

# Alcohol: What Does the Bible Really Say? (Part 5)

by Clifton Angel

**God DID command a drink offering.** Our fifth and final treatise for this subject was requested by one of our readers, and it concerns Deuteronomy 14:26. In connection with this passage, consider other passages, such as Numbers 28:7, Exodus 29:40, Leviticus 23:13, and many more. Conflict may arise when a surface reading is made of Deuteronomy 14:26 alone, and may cause one to ask if God was allowing/commanding the Jews to consume intoxicating beverages. With that surface reading may come the idea that God even was allowing it for personal pleasure: “whatsoever thy soul lusteth after”. Let us consider this passage in its context, in the context of the Bible, and with an honest heart.

Number one, the passage does NOT directly apply to us today. The old law has been fulfilled (Matt. 5:17, 18), taken out of the way (Col. 2:14), and nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14; c.f. Gal. 3:19-25). With all sincerity, love, kindness, and truth, if I were to seek justification in Deuteronomy 14:26 for my desire to drink alcohol today, I also need to prepare a lamb without blemish (along with a tenth portion of the first fruits of all my labors) to take for sacrifice at the next worship assembly. By the way, that worship assembly needs to be in Jerusalem, in God’s physical temple (which no longer exists), or another place if God so chose to designate it.

Number two, we cannot assume that “strong drink”, nor “strong wine”, means that the substance was intoxicating. For further study of the meaning of these phrases, I refer you to *Bible Wines* by William Patton and *The Bible and “Social” Drinking* by W.D. Jeffcoat for starters.

Number three, even if we can prove that “strong drink” was intoxicating, never in any of the aforementioned passages did God tell his children to DRINK those substances. According to Deuteronomy 14:26, they were told (after gathering “whatsoever thy soul desireth”), “thou shalt **eat** there before the LORD” (**emph. added**, CA).

Number four, let us consider what was ACTUALLY going on within the commanded events of this passage. The context surrounding and including Deuteronomy 14:26 concerns the old law commandment of tithing. “Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year” (Deut. 14:22). However, what if a Jewish family lived so far away from God’s designated place of worship that it was not possible, nor practical, for them to carry all of the products of their tithing for such a distance? God thought about that family: “And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it...Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose” (14:24, 25). God said (in a paraphrase), “You may not be able to carry all of the products (flocks, wine, oil, corn, etc.) that distance, but you can carry money, so sell these things for money, and go to the place God has chosen.” Now according to verse 26, God has not changed his law concerning the offerings commanded, but is merely explaining that now that the family is at the designated place of worship, they can buy there the things they need for their sacrificial worship to God. As we study other passages (Num. 28:7, Ex. 29:40, et. al.) concerning the offerings that would be made once this family bought the things they needed, we can see that the “strong drink” would have been Poured out “unto the LORD”. Flavius Josephus specified that such was “poured on the burnt-offerings” (*The Jewish War* 5.13). Dear friends and brethren, God DID command a drink offering, but it did not entail his children becoming intoxicated in even the smallest amount.

The five sections of this study concerning what the Bible REALLY says about alcohol are certainly not full exhaustions of all there is to study on the subject. Whole books have been written on the study and many other books, commentaries, lexicons, and dictionaries can aid...

...in even further study of the subject of “wine”, “strong drink”, and God’s position on the use of alcohol. However, there will be some that will still have the attitude, “I’m going to do what I want to do.” And they will quibble about passages in the Bible, and they will search for justification, and they will intimidate those who reject the drinking of alcohol, and until they “be converted” (Matt. 13:15) to a heart of honesty and humility, they will continue to do what they want to do. Let it never be the case that any of us be found with this attitude. To God be the glory.

**Special Thanks:**

To all who helped with the booth at Trade Days, especially Jason Bayless for always organizing the occasion. We especially want to thank Ruth Brister, Sue Cobern, & Elizabeth Baker for providing hand-made bracelets, stuffing bags for the booth, and attaching the bracelets to VBS invitations. Several people expressed interest in our VBS and one young family expressed great interest in Bible study. Let us pray!

**This Week’s Daily Bible Reading:**

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Sunday:    | Job 32-34    |
| Monday:    | Job 35-37    |
| Tuesday:   | Job 38-39    |
| Wednesday: | Job 40-42    |
| Thursday:  | Psalms 1-8   |
| Friday:    | Psalms 9-16  |
| Saturday:  | Psalms 17-20 |

*Sermon Review*

**Evangelism in Esther**  
(Esther 4:13, 14)

- I. SITUATION (3:5, 6, 10-15)
- II. SOLUTION (3:8)
- III. SOLICITATION (4:9-14)

**“Wait Upon the LORD”**  
(Isaiah 40:31, et. al.)

- I. I am **Dependent**.
- II. I am **Faithfully Dependent**.
- III. I am **Faithfully Dependent for Salvation**.

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Wiley Tuggle**, been to the hospital and doctor recently with an infection that is causing him great pain.

**Betty Tuggle**;

**Nora Boling**;

**Herbert & Helen Bowman**;

**OpenDoor Ministry**

**Fishers of Men**

**Far East Missions**

## Family & Friends

**Richard Keith**, son of Evelyn Wright, recently had a tumor removed from his back. **Matthew Canada** (5), has down syndrome, but was also just diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. **Betty Dukes'** son-in-law Al Halleman from Ardmore, OK died recently, and Betty requests prayers for her daughter Sherry. **Franklin Taylor**, friend of Daniel's, has cancer. **Andrew Hagedwood**, infant that has already had a heart transplant, is improving slowly. **Mary Brett Baird**, 8-year-old child experiencing multiple health issues. **Chuck Tharp**, prostate cancer. **Eli Williams**, and his battle with cancer. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler; **Ray Maples**; **Wayne Collinsworth**; **Easley/Ratliff Family**; **Angel Family**; **Sheena Hunt**; **Terry DeBerry**; **Nicole Blagburn**; **Gary Daugherty**; **Janie Brister**; **Renee Loya**; **Lavon Holden**; **Aubree Harris**; **Virginia Mayfield**; **Peyton Harville**; **Bob Spurlin**; **David Bragg**.

## June Birthdays

6/3 -- Amanda Ferrell

6/13 -- Melaney Ferrell

## June Anniversaries

6/5 -- Andy & Molly Ratliff

6/8 -- Caleb & Elizabeth Baker

6/26 -- Jeffrey & Amanda Ferrell

6/28 -- Jim & Mischel Jackson

## Get Involved!

### **Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012**

Let's continue to read and study together!!

**\*\*No potluck, nor 1 PM service today\*\***

(Meet at 6:30 for VBS)

**Providence Place Devo -- TODAY -- 2 PM**

### **Coldwater VBS -- June 10 - 14**

Begins at 6:30PM each night

Classes for ALL ages!

### **FOR VBS:**

Bring Drinks, Chips, & Sign up to bring Desserts

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, June 10

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class

Billy Bland

Announcements

Jerry Davis

Song Leader

Caleb Baker

Lord's Supper:

Preside

Jared Brown

Assist

Jim Jackson

Opening Prayer

Payton Jackson

Sermon

Andy Ratliff

Closing Prayer

Joe Owen

Sermon

Clifton Angel

Closing Prayer

Jeffrey Ferrell

#### Evening

Song Leader

V

Opening Prayer

Sermon

B

Lord's Supper

S

Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer

### Wednesday, June 13

Song Leader

V

Prayer

Invitation

B

Prayer

S