

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 17, 2012



Special Thanks:

To all who helped with Vacation Bible School! It is great to see God's people come together to accomplish tasks for evangelism and edification for His glory!

SEEK WISDOM FROM GOD, NOT FROM MEN

by Jason Hilburn

For a person to be truly happy and content in this life and the next, he must seek wisdom: "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver! The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul" (Proverbs 16:16,17). "He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good" (Proverbs 19:8). Therefore, it is prudent for men to seek wisdom: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7; cf. 7:4; 8:5,11). Wisdom is not something to be sought by young people only; it should be sought throughout all of our days: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Of course, the opposite of wisdom is foolishness, which only leads to eternal pain and sorrow: "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard" (Proverbs 13:15; cf. 15:10; Romans 6:21-23; Philippians 3:19; Revelation 20:15).

Those seeking wisdom need to be aware that the ultimate Source of wisdom is God, not men: "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly" (Proverbs 2:6-7; cf. Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10,11; 15:33). Solomon asked God for wisdom and understanding (I Kings 3:9-12), and the New Testament instructs us to do the same: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). If one desires wisdom, let him not only ask...

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.

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Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

...God, but let him also proactively fill his mind with the Word of God. Paul wanted the brethren at Ephesus to be wise by understanding the will of the Lord: “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:15-17). He then explained how they could do this, by being filled with the Word of God (Ephesians 5:18; cf. Colossians 3:16; John 6:63).

Knowing that God is the ultimate Source of true wisdom, one may wonder if anything can be learned from uninspired men. If there were nothing to learn from uninspired men, then there would be no such thing as Bible studies, Bible classes, and sermons! Teaching and preaching involves taking the wisdom of God expressed in the Scriptures and explaining it to others. When the Law of Moses was read to the people of Ezra’s day, there was also an explanation given: “So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading” (Nehemiah 8:8). If the words of uninspired men were totally useless and forbidden, then a so-called “Bible class” or “sermon” would simply consist of reading Scripture, with no discussion, illustrations, or applications. Although a preacher must “preach the Word” (II Timothy 4:2), he does so by using some of his own words to cause the hearers to better understand. He can also show how a particular Scripture harmonizes with other Scriptures, thereby giving the listeners a better understanding of the entire Bible—not just the particular passage being read. Of course, all of this must be done in total harmony with all the Scriptures, and teachers will be held accountable for what they have taught (Psalm 119:160; Colossians 3:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; James 3:1; I Peter 4:11).

This writer has known some who seem to object to all uninspired writings, as if it were wrong for people to read any uninspired religious material. If it is wrong to read such, then it is also wrong to attend a Bible class taught by an uninspired teacher! Whether the uninspired words are spoken or written makes no difference; the principle is the same. Someone may have studied a particular Biblical subject more than someone else, and others can glean from that person’s studies. It is also not inherently wrong to quote from an uninspired source. Paul quoted uninspired men in certain circumstances, even though he would not have agreed with them on every subject (Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12,13).

With all of that said, there is an inherent danger in the uninspired words of men. Men are fallible; God is not. “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118:8). Sometimes even faithful children of God will err from the Truth of God’s Word on a given subject. Hymenaeus and Philetus are notable examples of this:

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some (II Timothy 2:15-18).

It is indeed sad that brethren like Hymenaeus and Philetus erred from the Truth, but it is even...

...worse that they spread their error like an infectious disease, causing other souls to be lost! Thayer defines the word translated as “canker” as “a gangrene, a disease by which any part of the body suffering from inflammation becomes so corrupted that, unless a remedy be seasonably applied, the evil continually spreads, attacks other parts, and at last eats away the bones.” Surely if those brethren who became diseased with the false doctrine had been diligently working to divide rightly the Word, they would not have fallen from the Truth (II Timothy 2:15; cf. I Timothy 4:13,15,16).

Sadly, many will believe a certain doctrine simply because those who teach it have a lot of influence or letters after their names. It may be that these “followers” are too lazy to search the Scriptures for themselves, that they refuse to stand against those in their “clique,” or perhaps they simply have not grown to the point that they can “discern both good and evil” on their own (cf. Hebrews 5:12-14; I Peter 2:2; Matthew 5:6). Peter gives a warning about being led away into error by false teaching, and because of this danger, he commands Christians to grow:

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ... (II Peter 3:16-18).

Growing in the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is critical to prevent Christians from being led away with the error of false teachers. May all Bible students be like the noble Bereans, because the apostle Paul wrote, “...your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (Acts 17:11; I Corinthians 2:5).

This Week’s Daily Bible Reading:

Sunday: Psalms 21-25
 Monday: Psalms 26-31
 Tuesday: Psalms 32-35
 Wednesday: Psalms 36-39
 Thursday: Psalms 40-45
 Friday: Psalms 46-50
 Saturday: Psalms 51-57

Sermon Review

Proverbs: A True Chest of Treasure (Proverbs 1:1-10)

- I. The PURPOSE (1:1-7)
- II. The PERSONS (1:1, 8, 10)
- III. The PRINCIPLES (1:10, et. al.)

“Listening to Instruction” (VBS Adult Bible Class)

- I. Definition of INSTRUCTION
- II. An Illustration of INSTRUCTION
- III. Observations of INSTRUCTION
- IV. Application of INSTRUCTION

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Wiley Tuggle,
Betty Tuggle;
Nora Boling;
Herbert & Helen Bowman;
Sue Cobern

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!!

MSOP Graduation -- June 17, 5pm

SLCC Session 2 -- June 17-23

Baby Shower for Amanda Ferrell -- July 1

Between services; Necessities Only Requested

Thyatira VBS -- June 24-27

7pm each night

Olive Branch VBS -- June 25-28

7pm each night

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- July 1

Southaven VBS -- July 8-11

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, June 17

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jim Jackson
Announcements	Jared Brown
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Seth Daniel

Assist

Daniel Owen
Jeffrey Ferrell
Ron Johnson
Jason Bayless
Clifton Angel
Jerry Davis

Evening

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Wiley Tuggle
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Seth Daniel
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Wednesday, June 20

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Billy Bland
Invitation	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Caleb Baker