

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 2, 2017



## THE ELDERSHIP'S AUTHORITY APPLIED TO DISCERNING GOOD & EVIL



There are many possible applications of the eldership's authority in discerning good and evil. One example is very prevalent in the life of the twenty-first century Christian.

Has a well-intentioned Christian ever suggested to you, "the Bible doesn't teach that I need to attend worship twice on Sunday, and doesn't say anything about bible study on Wednesday night, so no one can tell me I have to attend any time except once on Sunday?"

How much basis in fact does this statement have, and how does it apply to our topic for this article?

*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 Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

Joe Owen Tim Wilkes, II

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

# The New Testament Example

When the example of the first century church is examined, these truths are discovered:

1. The first century church met regularly from the beginning of its existence (Acts 2:42, 46-47):

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers . . . And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people..." (Emp. AJC)

2. The first century church met on the first day of the week (Sunday), and while gathered, partook of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7):

"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them..."

3. There are rules and ordinances binding our actions when we come together as the assembly ("church") (1 Cor. 11:8ff; 16:2):

"For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it... Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation..."

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

4. The assembly of the church is necessary to provide the encouragement Christians need to remain faithful (Heb. 10:24-27).

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins..."

5. Turning away, or forsaking entirely, the assembly was condemned in the first century (cf. Heb. 10:25).

## Is An Optional Matter Optional?

The conclusion drawn by many from the above passages is that the first century church normally assembled only once on the first day of the week (*a correct conclusion*), and that assembling on Sunday is a binding example on Christians today (*a correct conclusion*), therefore an additional assembly on Sunday or on Wednesday night is a matter of judgment (*a correct conclusion*), and therefore no one can "require" a Christian to attend those assemblies, they are optional, and **cannot** be a matter of good or evil/sin or salvation (*a false conclusion*).

What authority could possibly be produced to indicate otherwise? The simple answer, as demonstrated so clearly in the article by brother Clarke ([see POWER Journal, Aug 2015, CRA](#)), is the authority of the eldership.

If an eldership, who has authority in matters of judgment, and specifically has authority (and accountability) in matters of keeping the flock of God faithful, establishes additional times for the church to assemble together and makes this a binding matter on the members to attend these assemblies, then the responsibility of every Christian under their oversight is to assemble with the body on every one of those occasions where they are able.

The response might be, "Attending only one worship assembly on Sunday is not condemned by the New Testament." This is true. But the New Testament does stipulate that to defy the authorities that God has established is to defy the authority of God Himself. And to defy the authority of God is a matter of good and evil.

If a Christian defies the God-given authority of the Elders in matters of attendance, they sin. Will you submit your will to the will of the shepherds in your congregation? Remember, "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for the watch for your souls, as those who must give account..." (Hebrews 13:17a).

This is how the authority of the Elders applies to  
*Discerning Good and Evil.*

**written by Aaron J. Cohort**  
POWER Journal, Aug 2015

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Panama Mission Team; Others traveling; Betty Duke family; Dana Davis**, recovering from surgery; **Grace Williams**, recovering from foot surgery; **Upcoming Mission** to India; **Meredith family**, Monica in Oxford for school; **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**.

**NetCasters** | **Far East Missions** | **Fishers of Men**

### Family & Friends

**Judy Dowelling**, Joe's mother; **Henry Wadsworth**; **Ray Maples**; **Joy Angel**; **Bobby Baker**; **Macadden Easley**; **Becky Latimer**; **Kristie Deffenbaugh**; **Lauren Ivy**; **George Morris**; **Raleigh Wood**; **Carole Livsey**, leukemia; **David Steward**; **Carey Smith**; **Lisa Hogan**; **Ava Roten**; **Sharon Brewer**; **Jenny Kraft**; **Mac Owen**; **Rhonda Cook**; **Wanda Coats**; **Henretta Newsom**; **Tammy Powell**; **Lawton O'Brien**; **Beverly Whitecotton**; **Peggy Hunt**; **Jason Spencer**; **Elizabeth Baker**; **Janie Brister**; **Amanda Cummings**; **Danielle Key**; **Frankie Burfield**; **Renee Loya**; **Eli Williams**; **Martha Hatfield**.

### Birthdays

6/1 Bodie Meredith  
6/3 Amanda Ferrell  
6/6 Betty Culbreath  
6/13 Melaney Ferrell  
6/18 Grace Williams  
6/21 Tim Meredith

### Anniversaries

6/3 Clarence & Faye Edwards  
6/4 Larry & Joyce Campbell  
6/5 Andy & Molly Ratliff  
6/26 Jeffrey & Amanda Ferrell  
6/28 Jim & Mischel Jackson

## Get Involved!

**Panama Mission Trip — June 29 – July 7**

**Sunday Afternoon for the Savior — TODAY**  
Between services

**Youth Devo @ Merediths' — July 8 — 6:30 PM**

**Providence Place Devo — July 9 — 2 PM**

**Nesbit VBS — July 10 – 14 — 7:00 – 8:15 pm**

**POWER Youth Rally — July 21 – 22**  
See flyer on bulletin board

**POWER Lectureship — July 23 – 27**

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, July 2

### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jim Jackson
Announcements	Jared Brown
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Chris Martin
Assist	Russell Wadsworth
	Dalton Owen
Opening Prayer	Tim Meredith
Sermon	Billy Bland
Closing Prayer	Ron Johnson

### Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	John Wofford
Sermon	Seth Daniel
Lord's Supper	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Dalton Owen
Closing Prayer	Terry Davis

Wednesday, July 5

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Marc Strickland
Invitation	Tim Wilkes II
Prayer	Jared Brown

TECH:	Daniel Owen
HALL:	Ron & Anna Johnson