

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 17, 2011



Growing in Love (1)

by David Bragg

Peter's list of virtues concludes with the trait of love (2 Pet. 1:7). No list of spiritual traits would be complete without this one attribute. Of all characteristics, love defines the basic meaning of growing spiritually.

Jesus asserted that to love is to fulfill the whole Law (Mat. 22:34-40). Paul considered the gifts bestowed upon the infant first century church only to conclude that the greatest gift is love (1 Cor. 13:13). John summed up the entire being of God with this single trait (1 Jn. 4:8).

"Love" is a disposition to do good. It is not primarily an emotional love but rather a frame of mind, a determination to do good even in the face of persecution. So we are admonished to love our enemies (Mat. 5:44) and overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:21). To accomplish these goals, to grow in love, demands that we keep our eye focused on Jesus as we deal with others as He has dealt with us.

Growing in Love (2)

by David Bragg

The young Thessalonian church had much to learn. In the two epistles addressed to them by the apostle Paul their concerns about the return of Christ were discussed. They were encouraged to remain faithful in the midst of the grave persecution they suffered. Of all the lessons they needed to learn there was one topic Paul did not need to waste paper and ink to thrash out: love. The...

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

5:00 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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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

...Thessalonians knew how to love! Still, Paul urged them to grow more and more (1 Thes. 4:9-10).

The entire region of Macedonia could testify of the love that was practiced at Thessalonica. Here the love of God appeared to be perfected. Even here, Paul insisted, love could grow. Love is meant to grow. Love is nothing unless it is growing.

God wants us to be a people of growing love. He wants us to give of ourselves unselfishly, to press the limits of sacrifice, to set an example of excellence and virtue. Finally, with this attitude of love, we will be transformed into the image of Christ, the One who made love possible.

A Special Thanks

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men... (Gal. 6:10).

Coldwater Church of Christ,

We were so thankful for all the food & household things! It was such a blessing! Our family was in NEED! Thank you for letting the Lord use your church to help us. A special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Bayless.

Sincerely,
The Hoss Family

Have We Left Off Part of the Armor?

by Clifton Angel

In a recent study concerning the very popular “armor of God” of Ephesians 6, something caught my eye in a way that it never has before. In verses 11 and 13, the Apostle Paul emphatically states that we, as Christians, must put on “*the whole armor of God*”. In verse 12, he reminds the brethren at Ephesus that we are in a *spiritual* battle, and that the **ONLY** possibility of **standing** against the “wiles” (Greek--schemes, methods) of Satan requires the whole armor of God. He continues in the text by defining the very familiar armor:

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (Eph. 6:14-17).

If we are going to **stand** against our “*adversary, the devil*” (1 Pet. 5:8), we must put on the **girdle of truth**, the **breastplate of righteousness**, the **foot protection of the preparation of the gospel of peace**, the **shield of faith**, the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**. However, is this the whole armor of God? Is this truly where Paul ends the *spiritual armor*? I encourage you to thoughtfully consider my next statement: **If we end at verse 17 with the armor of God, we are going to be leaving off a most important part of the spiritual armor.** Remember, Paul said we are in a *spiritual battle* (v. 12), and that we must put on “*the whole armor of God*” (vv. 11, 13). Furthermore, several Greek texts, and the standard English translations do not end Paul’s sentence at the end of verse 17. Rather, the sentence continues past, and includes “*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit*”. Dear friends, if we leave **prayer** out of our preparation for warfare “*against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world*” (v. 12), we will **NOT** have the whole armor of God. As we put on our girdles, breastplates, foot protection, and helmets, and pick up our swords and shields, let us not forget to guard our hearts and minds by *praying always* (v. 18).

Sermon Review

THANKS BE UNTO GOD

(2 Cor. 9:15; 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 9:6, 7)

- I. THE UNSPEAKABLE GIFT OF GOD.
- II. OUR SUITABLE GIFT TO GOD.

I SHALL NOT BE MOVED--PART 2

- I. ROOTED IN **MEDITATION** (Ps. 1, 112).
- II. ROOTED IN **TRUST** (Ps. 62).
- III. ROOTED IN **PRESENTATION** (Ps. 96).

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Addi Bayless had her tonsils & adenoids removed.
Wiley & Betty Tuggle; Nora Boling; Tim, Lynn, & Cali in their upcoming travels and works.
Tim II, Rachel, & Titus Wilkes with full time mission work.

Family & Friends

Bob May--Tim's cousin, in ICU after stroke.
Susan Brown--gall bladder surgery.
Sue Cobern--suffering from fibromyalgia.
Her mother is in the nursing home in Water Valley, MS, and she has dementia and several other health problems.
Teresa Burdsal--Bren's sister-in-law, suffered a massive heart attack, and her condition seemed to be going downhill quickly, but she is now doing much better than expected and is off the respirator. She has surgery in her future. Let us keep her in our prayers.
Carla Carlson--started chemo treatment recently.
Janie Brister--Ruth's sister-in-law, has multiple health problems.
Cathy Thompson--has lupus.
Luke Cantrell--Andy's cousin, had a serious car accident, but is currently doing much better.

Ray Maples--undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia.
Lajuan Collums; James Angel; Steve Angel; Deb Peeler; Scott McNeer; Trey Hanks; Jimmy Young; Gloria Angel; Richard & Pat Allen; Wilton Wooten; Clay Collums; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg; Brianna Edwards; Steve Angel

Let us not forget to pray for the works being done through Fishers of Men, Far East Missions, and the Open Door Ministry.

July Anniversary

Shane & Angie Staten 7/17

July Birthdays

3-Ruth Brister 14-Jason Bayless
4-Inez Neyman 19-Carson Kinney
4-Jimmy Sowell 21-Joyce Stephens
5-Layla Johnson 21-Sam Dickson
6-Cali Bayless 22-Maira Davis
7-Bill Easley 24-Jayce Brown
7-Aemon Ratliff

Get Involved!

Maira Davis' Baby Shower--July 17
Following AM Services

Nesbit VBS--July 18 - 22
7:00 - 8:30 PM Each Night

Olive Branch VBS--July 18 - 21
7:00 PM Each Night

Southaven Youth Rally--July 22

Southaven POWER Lectureship
July 24 - July 28
Coldwater is to provide 20 Desserts on 27th.

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, July 17

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Caleb Baker
Announcements	Andy Ratliff
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Billy Bland
	Jeremy Moore
	Johnny Bayless
Assist	Shane Staten
	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	
Sermon	TBA
Closing Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

Evening

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Jim Jackson
Sermon	Caleb Baker
Lord's Supper	Jeremy Moore
	Billy Bland
	Ron Johnson
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, July 20

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Adam Sowell
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Wiley Tuggle