

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oct. 30, 2011



"This May be the Last Time"

by Jim Murrell

Years ago, someone said, "I never lay my head on the pillow without thinking that perhaps before I awake the final morning may have dawned. I never begin work without thinking that He may interrupt it to begin His own."

Every night before we go to sleep, we ought to say, "Jesus may come tonight." Every day when we get our tools and go to work, this may be the last day of work that we do. When we set out to enjoy our hobbies we ought to see that this may be our last day of earthy enjoyment. Even when we worship Him or take thought from His word we should clearly see that this may be our last time this side of eternity for even those things.

Are you praying for Jesus to return? Paul spoke of those who would "love His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8). Would you love his appearing? If you are not prepared to meet Him as judge rest assured you will not. Have you obeyed His every beckoning call? Won't you obey Him today?

If you love Him, you ought to be keeping His commandments (John 14:15) and longing for His return. We ought to say, "I have Him in my heart, but I long to lay my eyes upon Him and walk with Him and talk with Him." We are to be looking for His return. We are also to be longing for His return." Even so, come Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

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.

P.O. Box 321

2008 Hwy. 306

(1.2 miles east of I-55)

Coldwater, MS 38618

(662) 622-7951

emailus@coldwatercofc.com

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

The Local Church Part 2

by Trent Childers

The local church on fire for the Lord will work to teach others the Gospel, give liberally to the cause of Christ, edify one another, and help those in need. What about sin within the local church? How is that to be viewed?

Jesus taught there is an identification by which Christians are known, and that is love (John 13:34). How do Christians illustrate that love among one another? If a brother or sister in the local congregation is living in sin, do the other members show their love by acting as if everything is okay and not saying anything to the brother or sister about the sinful lifestyle? What does the Bible say about this subject? After all, that is what really matters.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning a brother living in sin. He was committing fornication; he had “his father’s wife” (1 Cor. 5:1). Paul even wrote to this congregation “such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles” (1 Cor. 5:1). The brethren there were not acting toward this brother as they should have been acting. They were “puffed up” when they should have “rather mourned” (1 Cor. 5:2). Why should they have been mourning? They should have been mourning because this brother was in a lost state. Paul urged the brethren there to deal with the issue, and handle the sin problem accordingly. Elsewhere Paul wrote “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us” (2 The. 3:6). Paul told the brethren there at Corinth “To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Cor. 5:5). Why did Paul tell them such a thing?

First, one reason Paul told them such is revealed in the very verse: “...that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Cor. 5:5). This was to be done out of love for the brother’s soul. Some seem to think it would be unloving to practice such a thing, but dear reader, it is just the opposite. It is unloving to watch a brother or sister go down the road to hell without trying to do anything about it. Paul loved this brother enough and the congregation as a whole enough to tell them to take action concerning the matter. They were not to have joy in it, for Paul rebuked them for not mourning. Knowing that a brother or sister is living in sin should cause the congregation to mourn, and the mourning should drive them to act. There is a big problem when multiple people within a local congregation are unfaithful to the Lord, and the members do not seem to show concern.

Second, another reason Paul told them to act in such a manner was because “...a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6). The people to whom Paul was writing...

...understood what leaven did to bread, and Paul uses leaven to refer to sin. One person intentionally living in sin within a congregation can cause sin to spread in the congregation. Paul commanded them to “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:” (1 Cor. 5:7). He alludes to the Passover, in which there was to be no leaven; it was an unleavened feast. Paul declared “Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:”, Just as the leaven was to be taken out of the houses for the Passover, sin is to be purged within the church. R.F. Knox, Jr. observed:

Under the Jewish system, all leaven had to be eliminated before the passover lamb could be slain and eaten, before its benefits could be enjoyed. Today, our passover Lamb has already been slain, and Christians must now eliminate the leaven of sin from their lives before the benefits of His sacrifice may be enjoyed (First Corinthians, 2003, 105).

If the brother or sister living in sin is not addressed, the sinful living could likely spread throughout the congregation. Imagine a person who frequently drinks alcohol, and he knows of a congregation where people who also frequently drink alcohol are members, and nothing at all has been said to them concerning the matter. This person may likely want to be part of the congregation that tolerates such behavior. Before long, that congregation may very well consist of many people who intentionally live in sin. Why? “...a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”

A local church that loves the Lord and each other will practice church discipline as prescribed in the Bible. The Corinthians followed what Paul said, and the brother repented (2 Cor. 2:1-11), which is the desired result. If it has not been practiced, then the matter needs to be addressed, and it needs to start being practiced. Dear reader, it is not a matter of choosing whether or not to practice it, not if the Lord is to be obeyed, for He has commanded that it be done. Many make excuses as to why it should not be done, but brethren, do you want to stand before the Lord having made excuses why a command of the Lord should not have been done?

Sermon Review

Glorify God (Part 1)

- I. By confessing our faith in Christ
- II. By being buried with Christ.
- III. By being in His church.
- IV. By letting our lights shine.
- V. By suffering as Christians.
- VI. By being united.

Glorify God (Part 2)

- I. In you bearing of fruit.
- II. In your body and spirit.
- III. In your entire life.

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Inez Neyman, recovering.
Wiley & Betty Tuggle.
Tim II, Rachel, & Titus Wilkes

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

Family & Friends

Peyton Harville, one of Ginger's students, was having some major seizures, he is back home and doing much better. Let's pray for his improvement.
Danny Wiley, brother of Helen Bowman recently passed.
Josh & Maggie Farrow, loss of 15 mo. old daughter.
Luke Finchman, in loss of grandmother and other trials.
Thomas Tuggle, brother of Wiley, recently passed.
Hannah O'Brien, pregnant with twins.
Renee Loya, (cousin of Elizabeth Baker), has MS.
Wes, brother of Deb Peeler, has cancer
Norman & Brenda Mahan, tragic motorcycle accident.
Linda Lentz, recovering from double bypass surgery.
Charles Easley, Molly's grandfather, is in the hospital with multiple health problems.
Allen Beech's daughter, (Allen is a friend to Andy), she tried to commit suicide. Needs our prayers.
Jeff Nichols -- on breathing machine, not doing well.
Carl Hounshell -- One of the elders at Independence has some serious health problems, but is improving.
Virginia Mayfield -- friend of Bren, has leukemia.
Ray Maples -- undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia.
Janie Brister -- has multiple health problems.
Cathy Thompson -- has lupus.
James Angel; Steve Angel; Gloria Angel; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg; Kelly Ann Cooper; Allen Family.

October Birthdays

Mischel Jackson -- 10/03
Lynn Wilkes -- 10/05
Georgia Bayless -- 10/15
Jared Brown -- 10/16
Abby Kate Haynes -- 10/17
Sarah Norris -- 10/20
Billy Bland -- 10/31

Get Involved!

5th Sunday Singing & Devo -- Today!
Trunk O' Treat -- Tonight after PM service
Finger food fellowship.
Bonfire & Hayride @ Jackson's -- Nov. 5
Sunday Night for the Savior -- Nov. 6
Get contacts to Jason/Clifton by AM service.
Bring finger foods!
Bible Bowl -- Nov. 12 -- 10:30 AM
Acts 8, 9, & 10 -- Study hard!

Fishers of Men Class at Coldwater

We have recorded **41 studies** with **22 people** so far in our study reports.
Please pray for the teachers and students!

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, October 30

Morning

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Prayer Before Class | Johnny Bayless |
| Announcements | Jerry Davis |
| Song Leader | Andy Ratliff |
| Lord's Supper: | |
| Preside | Jared Brown |

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Assist | Shane Staten |
| Opening Prayer | Payton Jackson |
| Sermon | Ron Johnson |
| Closing Prayer | Wiley Tuggle |
| | Clifton Angel |
| | Jeffrey Ferrell |

Evening

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Song Leader | Andy Ratliff |
| Opening Prayer | Caleb Baker |
| Sermon | Clifton Angel |
| Lord's Supper | Jared Brown |
| | Payton Jackson |
| Closing Prayer | Jim Jackson |

Wednesday, November 2

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Song Leader | Andy Ratliff |
| Prayer | Timothy Wilkes, Sr. |
| Invitation | Clifton Angel |
| Prayer | Billy Bland |