

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nov. 24, 2013



## When Paul **GAVE THANKS**

PART 2

Paul preached that we should give thanks **always** and **in everything**. And, he also practiced it. As was formerly noted, nearly thirty passages contain explicit examples of Paul's personal appreciation. We've considered that Paul gave thanks for **physical providence, family in the faith, and redemption**. Let us consider three more.

**His work.** "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry" (1 Timothy 1:12). Paul was thankful to be in the church and to be able to work in the church. Can we say with confidence that we have the same mindset toward our own labors in the Lord's kingdom? How much work do we do in the Lord's church? Gratitude for opportunities to labor in the Lord's church will lead to more labor for the Lord.

**Others' Work.** "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father" (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3). Paul continuously expressed gratitude and encouragement toward others that were laboring in the kingdom of Christ. How thankful are we for each member that is faithful in laboring for the Lord? Are we so thankful that we let them know? Are we so thankful that we encourage them? Are we so thankful that we assist them and support them in their labors? More gratitude expressed for others' labors in the kingdom will lead to more labor for the Lord.

—continued inside—

*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 each Sunday at 12:30

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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

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

**Others' Redemption.** "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you" (Rom 6:17). Paul rejoiced at every moment that one was converted to Christ. He expressed the same of those at Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 2:13). Paul knew that it was the gospel wherein God placed his power to save mankind (Romans 1:16). For these reasons, Paul said, "I am debtor" (Romans 1:14). Being thankful for the salvation of others will lead to more seeking of others to be saved.

*—written by Clifton Angel*

## To You Who Bring Small Children to Church

There you are sitting in worship or Bible study. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you



pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the auditorium. All the while, you're a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid."

I want you – you mothers and/or fathers – to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The little elderly woman who often fills alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brighten her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes – if but for a moment – her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you – a young family

– in church, and you don't miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

The family who's unable to have children notice you too. They'd love to be in your shoes, but for whatever reasons, they are unable to bear children. They've thought about adopting, but they're not sure if that's what they want to do or if they will keep on trying to have children of their own. They'd love to talk to you for a little while about the joys of your children. They need you.

Then there's everybody else. Some people will honestly become frustrated by noisy children in church. They have this warped idea that reverence includes absolute silence. It doesn't. When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked them (Matt. 19.13-15), but Jesus rebuked His disciples. He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." The term translated "children" in Matthew and Mark is *paidon*. The root of the word "pedagogue" is from this word. It defined children of either an infant state, or more particularly, it was with reference to those who were half-grown and could be either males or females.

When Luke wrote his account of this narrative, he used the word *brephos*; which means "infants." Luke wasn't contradicting Matthew and Mark's account, because Luke wrote that they brought the infants "also" (Luke 18.15-17). They would have squirmed, maybe even cried. This was likely why the disciples rebuked the parents; as well as that they might have thought that the children were too young to understand the blessing Christ pronounced over them.

Bring your children to church. ***If you don't hear crying, the church is dying.*** As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should.

–written by Steven Hunter  
<http://veritasvenator.com>

## Sermon Review

### Am I Sacrificial Like Stephen?

(Acts 6:1–8:4)

- I. He was a man.
- II. He had a message.
- III. He was martyred.
- IV. He had motivation.

### 4 Factors of being Faithful

(material by Bobby O'Dell)

- I. Every day, Listen to God
- II. Every day, Talk to God
- III. Every day, Say Something for God
- IV. Every day, Do Something for God

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Inez Neyman** had to have a pacemaker put in last week; she is home and doing well; **Several** traveling for various mission efforts; **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**; **Sue Cobern**; **Helen Bowman**.

**OpenDoor Ministry**  
**Fishers of Men**  
**Far East Missions**

## Family & Friends

**Philippine Typhoon victims**; **Janet Colvett**, next round of chemo Monday, 11/25; **Bobby Gayton**, may have prostate cancer and need surgery, but also ran into a bout of MRSA recently, back home on antibiotics; **Marie Sims**, Ashby Johnson's mother, cancer treatment now, surgery January; **James Cooper**, Jan's brother, stomach cancer; **Vicky Davis**, cancer has spread to brain; **Vicki Angel**, Clifton's mom, recovering well; **Ray Maples**; **John & Anita Simpson** & family, John had a successful surgery and is scheduled to have another in January; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, has stage 4 cancer; **Cindy Jones' family**; **LaJuan Collums'**, receiving treatments for cancer, battles other health problems also; **Virginia Johnson**, wife of gospel preacher Roger Johnson, has stage 4 lung cancer; **Juanita Wooten**; **Joy Angel**, battling various health problems; **JoAnn Prestage**, Sara Norris' sister, cancer; **Tasha Higginbotham**, in need of a kidney transplant; **Linda Perkins**, Tim West's mother-in-law, leukemia; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**, toddler with leukemia; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**, in efforts of adoption of baby Faith; **Carly Wright**, 3 yr. old with liver cancer; **Joe & Josephine Johnston**, and their sons, Charles and Chris; **Frederick Bland**; **Carla Carlson**; **Janie Brister**.

## Birthdays

11/5 Rachel Wilkes  
11/14 Shirley Yarbro  
11/14 Kara Johnson  
11/18 Timothy Wilkes, Sr.  
11/25 Wiley Tuggle  
11/26 Virginia Sowell

## Anniversary

11/8 Jeremy & Mindy Moore

## Get Involved!

**Singing Night -- Wed, Nov 27 -- 7 PM**

**Close of Year Bible Lectureship -- Nov 30**  
Crocket church of Christ, 4:30 - 6:00, see flyer

**No BIBLE BOWL for December**  
Will Resume January 18; Genesis 25 – 27  
At Looxahoma, 10:30 AM

*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, November 24

### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jerry Davis
Announcements	Seth Daniel
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Joe Owen
Assist	Jeremy Moore

Opening Prayer	Daniel Owen
Sermon	Dalton Owen
Closing Prayer	Jim Jackson
	Clifton Angel
	Ron Johnson

### Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Jason Bayless
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Joe Owen
	Daniel Owen
Closing Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

Wednesday, November 27

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Invitation	Dalton Owen
Prayer	Jerry Davis