

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..." (Jude 3)
January 03, 2016

Coldwater church of Christ

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ELDERS

Richard Price
Kevin Smith
Bill Vincent

DEACONS

Johnny Downs
Josh Fulcher
Wesley Tucker

PREACHER

Luke Puckett

SUNDAY SERVICE

Bible Class: 9:30
AM Worship: 10:15
PM Worship: 1:00

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class: 7:00pm

LADIES CLASS

Tuesday 10:00am

A Message To Our Visitors

It is our privilege to have you visiting with us today. Please know that you are our honored guest. Please let us get to know you, and fill out an attendance card so we can have record of you being here. Please return to be with us again at your earliest opportunity. If you have questions or would like to study the Bible with us, please let us know. Thanks again for visiting with us, and may God continue to bless you according to His divine purpose.

THOSE TO SERVE

Announcements:

Josh Fulcher

Lead Singing:

Mitchell Smith

Opening Prayer:

Wesley Tucker

Scripture Reading:

Kyle Hobbs

Lord's Table

Bill Vincent
Richard Jones
David Dodd
Nathia Whitley

Closing Prayer:

Hyland Darnell

Greeters (East)

Helen and Peggy B

Greeters (West)

Kay and Linda

LESSONS

AM: Someone is
Waiting for You

Scripture reading:

John 14:1-6

PM: The Importance
of Identification

Scripture reading:

Acts 8:1-4

MEN'S CHOICES

By: Jerry Brewer

Many people have heard the statement, “Attend the church of your choice,” so often they may believe it is actually in the Bible. “Attend the church of your choice” implies that Christianity is like a cafeteria where one can choose to accept any part of God’s Truth which he likes and reject any which does not suit his taste, regardless of what God has said. This approach to religion makes man—not God—the final authority.

The Bible does not teach that Christianity offers multiple choices which God will accept. While it’s true that there are many different denominations from which to choose, it is also true that Christ built only one church (Matthew 16:18) purchased only one with his blood (Acts 20:28) and will save only that one church (Ephesians 5:23). We have the freedom of choice because God made man a creature of free will. But that does not mean God accepts every choice man makes. God expects all men to choose what He has commanded. He won’t prevent us from making wrong choices, but He will not accept religion that is not prescribed in His Word.

The Bible is full of examples of men who made choices. Some of those pleased God and some did not. For instance, Noah did not have the “wood of his choice” when he built the ark. God told him to, “Make thee an ark of gopher wood” (Genesis 6:14). If Noah had reasoned that pine was a light wood and easy to work with and would do just as well as gopher wood, pine would have been the wood of Noah’s choice. But God gave him no choice in the kind of wood he was to use,

and Genesis 6:22 says Noah “did according to all that God commanded him.” In order to save himself and his family from the flood’s destruction, Noah had no other choice.

Cain had no “sacrifice of his choice” in Genesis 4. The Bible says, “And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect” (Genesis 4:3-4). Hebrews 11:4 says Abel offered his sacrifice, “by faith.” Cain did not. Since “faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17), Abel heard and obeyed God. Cain did not.

Man has only two choices in religion. He can do what God specifies in His word, or do what man chooses and ignore what God has said. Jesus said the overwhelming majority of the human race will be lost because they travel the way of man’s choice instead of God’s (Matthew 7:13-14). God’s choice is that we believe (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24) repent of our sins (Acts 17:30) confess our faith in Christ (Acts 8:37) and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). These are the things of God’s choice, and when men obey Him, he adds them to the church of His choice, not of men’s choice (Acts 2:47).

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Jennifer Price (4th)
- ⇒ Charles Andrew Johnson (9th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Ezekiel
- ⇒ **Team:** Team 1 meets today
- ⇒ **Area events:** Please see bulletin board for more info. Several meetings, singings, and Bible schools are coming up in our area.
- ⇒ **New Personal invitation handouts** are available . Please make sure to take some and handout or leave with a tip, and invite someone to our service!
- ⇒ **Ladies Bible class:** Will resume January 05 at 10am
- ⇒ **Monthly Men's Class:** Will be held on Tuesday Jan 05 at 6:30pm here at the building.
- ⇒ **Visit:** We will Visit Kirksey on 1-31. They start at 6pm.
- ⇒ **5th Sunday Singing and Potluck:** on 1-31
- ⇒ **Guest Speaker:** Rickie Burse will speak on 1-31
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Chili

Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Johnny Downs
- ⇒ Hyland Darnell (recovering from knee replacement surgery)
- ⇒ Norma Darnell (Has found out she has Parkinson's disease)
- ⇒ Kayla Stembridge (recovering from surgery)
- ⇒ Jonnie Hutchison (Amber's father is having eye trouble)
- ⇒ David Brandon
- ⇒ Debbie Smith (Kevin's sister-in-law-cancer)
- ⇒ Greg Black (Kathy Black's son)
- ⇒ Larry Pea (Cousin of Judy Black, has cancer)
- ⇒ Loretta Haley (cancer)
- ⇒ David Edwards (Josh Fulcher's uncle-cancer)
- ⇒ Billy Irvan
- ⇒ Jana Ward (cancer)
- ⇒ Debbie Edwards (Josh Fulcher's Aunt is have a mastectomy)
- ⇒ Trudy Smith
- ⇒ Mallory Harrison (cancer)
- ⇒ Wanda Riley (Josh Fulcher's Aunt)
- ⇒ James McAbee
- ⇒ Dorothy McNeely (Richard Adams' sister, has cancer)
- ⇒ Derek Adams (Richard Adams' grandson, has leukemia)
- ⇒ Richard & Rachel Guill (Rachel was placed in a nursing home)
- ⇒ Lashell Jones
- ⇒ Michael Inman (Tonya Jones' stepdad)
- ⇒ Maria's sister-continuing to recover from heart surgery.
- ⇒ Lucetria Hutchison (Ronnie's mother)
- ⇒ Jay Kolb (Friend of Bill and Maria has brain tumor)
- ⇒ Caleb Teasley (Kevin's cousin's son, 4 years old)
- ⇒ Continue to remember all those who have lost loved ones this year

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear the Word
(Rom 10:17)

Believe the Word
(John 8:24)

Repent
(Luke 13:3)

Confess Christ
(Rom 10:10)
(Acts 8:37)

Be Baptized
(Acts 2:38)
(Acts 22:16)

Remain Faithful
(Rev 2:10)
(Acts 8:12-24)

Heaven can be your
home if you obey God!
(Heb 5:8-9)

Please visit our website at
www.coldwatercoc.org.
You will find bulletins,
sermon outlines, and
other helpful links and
material.



MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Ezekiel 2:3-4 And He said to me: "Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. (4) For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD!'

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: sklērotrachēlos (σκληροτράχηλος)

Pronounced: sklay-rot-rakh'-ah-los

Translated into the word we use today: **Stiff-necked or Stubborn**

Meaning: according to Strong is: hard naped, that is, (figuratively) obstinate: - stiffnecked. Thayer adds, 1) stiffnecked, 2) stubborn, headstrong, obstinate

Supporting verse: Acts 7:51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Throughout the years I have been called stubborn, and rightfully so. I'm hard headed, set in my ways, and can outlast anyone in being upset and not saying sorry when things don't go my way. I've got a feeling that I'm not alone. Several, if not all, of us have a stubborn side. Where the problem lies is if we let that carry over into our spiritual life. God tells His prophet Ezekiel to go and warn the children of Israel of their sins against God. See, they were set in their ways of doing things the way they wanted to do them, and they didn't care if that violated God's law or not. That is why God says in Ezekiel 2:4 that they "are impudent and STUBBORN children." Does God say the same thing about us? Are we stubborn spiritually? Are we so set in our ways that we will not do what God wants us to do? If we go to the book of Acts in chapters 6 and 7, we see a group of people like this. Stephen was teaching a group about the Son of God, Christ. He goes through the old law to show how Moses and others pointed the way to the coming of Christ, but these people were so set in their ways that they refused to hear. Notice what Stephen says in Acts 7:51 "You Stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!" He told them they were stubborn for refusing to hear God's law. Are you refusing to hear God in all matters? Are you stubborn? If so, put that off and serve Him!



Bible question: Who anointed David as King?

Last week's question and answer: Who outran a chariot to Jezreel?

Answer: Elijah (1Kings 18:44-46)

Those answering: Kay Robertson, Linda Jones, Helen Tidwell, Peggy Newsome, Rachel Adams