

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..." (Jude 3)
January 17, 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:

Josh Price

Opening Prayer:

Kevin Smith

Scripture Reading:

Nathia Whitley

Lord's Table

David Dodd
Nathia Whitley
Bill Vincent
Richard Jones

Closing Prayer:

Johnny Downs

Greeters (East)

Kevin and Tammy

Greeters (West)

Amber and Boys

LESSONS

AM: A Girl Worth
Fighting For

Scripture reading:

Titus 2:3-5

PM: Opportunities
in the Local Church

Scripture reading:

1Corinthians 3:1-7

NICODEMUS

By: Alan Adams

It was early on in the time when Jesus began to go about preaching. One night, a man by the name of Nicodemus came to seek answers from Jesus about the kingdom of God. No one knows why Nicodemus came at night. The Bible doesn't say explicitly, neither does it imply the answer. It would do us all good if we could learn that when the Bible does not say something about a matter, neither should we; neither should we presume to act in the absence of biblical say-so.

Let's see. The Bible — specifically, the New Testament, or Will of Jesus — says nothing about Popes, Nuns, rosaries, holy water. It says nothing about salvation by faith only; nothing about a future thousand year reign of Jesus on this planet in the city of Jerusalem. The New Testament says nothing about worshipping God with musical instruments or choirs.

On the other hand, it does say that Christians collectively a "priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5, 9). It does say that a person becomes a Christian by having his "heart sprinkled from an evil conscience," and his "body washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22). The sprinkled heart is a reference to the "sprinkling" of the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 12:24; the washed body is a reference to water baptism (Acts 22:16). And, in reference to music in worship, the New Testament does say that we are to sing, and thereby to teach and admonish "one another" (Colossians 3:16). The crucial question is: Is the Bible to be viewed as God's say-so and therefore human obligation; or, is it merely to be viewed as somewhat God's say-so when it pleases me, plus whatever one decides to add on the basis of God's silence?

We know that Nicodemus was a Jew, specifically a Pharisee, just like the much-later-to-come apostle Paul. Another marvelous characteristic of Nicodemus which separates him from the average person is that he was an intellectually honest person and willing to investigate facts, even when the conclusions warranted by the facts ran counter to popular opinion, or strongly held views. Later, in John chapter seven, when animosity had grown to the point that Jesus could not walk about openly for fear of the Jews killing him, it was Nicodemus who stuck out his neck saying, "Doth our law judge a man, except it first hear from himself and know what he doeth." When it comes to religion, many, if not most, people, are completely unlike Nicodemus. They make their judgments and decisions, their beliefs and practices without hearing what the Bible has to say. We ought to be like the Bereans who, rather than just reject Paul's teaching out of hand, Scripture says they, "received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). I've met quite a number of people who have a built-in bias

toward churches of Christ; yet, rarely do they allow their biases to be examined in light of Bible teaching. Nicodemus was not that way, his was the attitude that one ought not to make judgments in the absence of evidence and a fair hearing. Yes, we need more like Nicodemus today.

Nicodemus was also quite a discerning man. Not only was he willing to hear a matter fully, but, he was also a person who was compelled by evidence. For example, when he first approached Jesus, he said, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2). He recognized a miracle when he saw one, and concluded that no one could do a miracle except God be with him. In other words, he traced the act back to God, and consequently, desired to know what God had to say about matters. A miracle, rightly understood, is an act performed by God through certain individuals. Said act is supernatural in nature, and thereby impossible to have been accomplished by natural means. There are many people today who make claims about miraculous acts, but they are short on proof. Miracles, were clearly performed in the first century. They were performed for the purpose of immediate proof that the performer was from God, and therefore what he had to say was what God had to say.

Today, no one on this planet can perform a miracle. I know that for several reasons: (1) If they could, they would; but they can't, so they don't. They merely make claims; unlike such as Paul who said, "our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit" (1Thessalonians 1:5). (2) Only the apostles could pass on miracle performing power to others (Acts 8:17-18), and the apostles are all long since dead. Besides all that, we now have at our disposal "that which is perfect"—God's final word and will—and Paul flat out says, when "that which is perfect is come," then supernatural, miraculous gifts, will be "done away" (1Corinthians 13:8-13). Well, it has, and they are: done away, that is.

What a man, this Nicodemus. He had many presuppositions about religion, about Jesus. He was an important powerful man, a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, kind of like their Supreme Court, yet he was an honest and discerning man who would be lead by the truth, and not by his feelings, nor what others thought. He had reasons for coming to Jesus by night. The important thing is, he came. Give us more like him.

—Via Main Street Monitor

Birthdays & Anniversaries

⇒ Isaac Fulcher (22nd)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Ezekiel
- ⇒ **Team:** Team 3 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!
- ⇒ **Monthly Men's Class:** Will be held on Tuesday Feb 02 at 6:30pm here at the building.
- ⇒ **Workday:** Saturday 1-30 at 8am
- ⇒ **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: Mixed Vegetables

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)
- ⇒ Richard Jones
- ⇒ Colt Johnson
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Debbie Edwards (Josh Fulcher's)
- ⇒ 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 18:20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: psuchē (ψυχή)

Pronounced: psoo-khay'

Translated into the word we use today: **Soul**

Meaning: according to Strong is: From G5594; breath, that is, (by implication) spirit, abstractly or concretely (the animal sentient principle only; thus distinguished on the one hand from G4151, which is the rational and immortal soul; and on the other from G2222, which is mere vitality, even of plants: these terms thus exactly correspond respectively to the Hebrew [H5315], [H7307] and [H2416]: - heart (+ -ily), life, mind, soul, + us, + you.

Supporting verse: Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

In Ezekiel 18:20 we read “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.” Many today disregard this verse and others like it. They will say that we are born in sin, that we bear the sins of our parents, going all the way back to Adam and Eve. This is called total depravity. This is why you see some “baptizing”, or sprinkling babies. They think that the pure, precious children have sin. This false teaching could not be farther from the truth. See, we don’t bear the sins of our father, but the SOUL THAT SINS WILL DIE. We find that we will give an account of ourselves to God (Rom 14:12). We don’t give an account to God on what others have done, just ourselves. Our parents could be non-believers and far away from God, but their children could be close to God and Christians. Just because our parents are something, doesn’t mean that we are spiritually responsible for what they have done. Sometimes we might bear consequences of their actions, but never their sins! Remember Jesus said that we must be converted like a little child if we want to see God. Children have no sin, and we don’t bear the sins of our parents.



Bible question: Who disputed with the devil about the body of Moses?

Last week’s question and answer: Who, in the beatitudes, does Jesus promise laughter to?

Answer: Those who weep (Luke 6:21)

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