

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..." (Jude 3)

March 08, 2015

Coldwater church of Christ

8467 State Route 121 N
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ELDERS

Richard Price
Kevin Smith
Bill Vincent

DEACONS

Johnny Downs
Josh Fulcher
Wesley Tucker

PREACHER

Luke Puckett

SUNDAY SERVICE

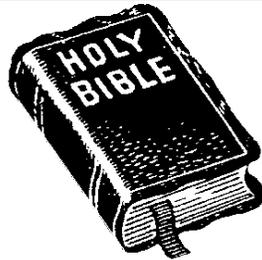
Bible Class: 9:30
AM Worship: 10:15
PM Worship: 1:00

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class: 7:00pm

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays: 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:

Richard Price

Lead Singing:

Bradley Smith

Opening Prayer:

Ron Hutchison

Scripture Reading:

Chris Smith

Lord's Table

Andy Johnson
Josh Fulcher
Johnny Downs
David Dodd

Closing Prayer:

Richard Jones

Greeters (East)

Richard and Rita

Greeters (West)

Kyle and Tiffany

LESSONS

AM: One Witch Is As
Good As Another
Scripture reading:
Deuteronomy 18:9-16

PM: The Fish Net
Scripture reading:
Matthew 13:47-51

“GOD SEES OUR HEARTS” *By: Victor M. Eskew*

The spiritual heart of man is that part of man that thinks, reasons, wills, and expresses emotion. It is the command center of all of a man's actions (Prov. 23:7). According to the prophet Jeremiah, the heart can be very deceptive. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). Thus, we are exhorted “to keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23). The one who knows man's heart perfectly is God. The psalmist declared: “Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart” (Ps. 44:21). In Acts 15:8, we learn that it is God “which knoweth the hearts.” God can enter the cavern of the heart and find every passage way. He can see within every nook and cranny. He can turn over every stone and pebble that is therein. There is absolutely nothing within the heart that God does not know. Another passage that reveals that God looks upon the heart of man is found in I Samuel 16:7. “But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh upon the heart.” Sadly, many people have taken this verse and have perverted it. They have made the passage teach that God is mainly concerned about man's sincerity. A person may be involved in sin. A person may be negligent in duty. An individual might be ignorant of the truth of God's Word. In such cases, we are told, God looks on the heart of a man. The outward appearance, it is said, is not nearly as important as the heart of man. If God sees a sincere heart, He overlooks the appearance. If God sees that a person loves Him, He is not too concerned about one's behavior. If He sees that one's heart is basically “good,” God will dismiss the sin, the negligence, or the ignorance on man's part. God sees the heart, and it is the heart that really matters, some say. This idea has been used by the denominational world for years. Those in denominations can be given book, chapter, and verse from the Bible that condemns their doctrines and practices, but this is not important. They will respond: “Well, God knows my heart.” They are convinced that God is only concerned with the sincerity and the goodness of their heart. Sadly, this idea has crept into the church. Members can be involved in sin, fail to use their talents, slip in their service to God, and they think that they are still alright with God. They, too, are convinced that God is more concerned about their heart than their outward appearance. In the context of I Samuel 16:7, God is not acknowledging that the heart is more important than behavior. Samuel, the prophet, was sent by God to the house of Kish. One of the sons of Kish had been selected by God to be the next king of Israel due to the failings of Saul. When Samuel saw the sons of Kish, he was convinced that Eliab would be the one chosen. “And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before me” (I Sam. 16:6). There was something about Eliab's appearance that made an impact on the seer. He may have been tall. He may have been very strong. He may have

been handsome. He may have been all three. This is when “the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (I Sam. 16:7). God had examined the hearts of all of Kish's sons. God knew that it was the heart that determined both conviction and obedience. The heart of David was the one that impressed God. In I Samuel 16:12, we read about David. “...Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to...” His look was quite different from that of Eliab. Outwardly, he did not have the appearance of a king like Eliab did. God, however, saw his heart, and his heart was indeed the heart of a king. The lesson that we really should learn from this Bible narrative is that one's outward appearance can be right, but his heart can be wrong. It is possible to visibly play the part of a king or of a child of God. Looking the part, however, is not enough. God is also concerned about one's heart. Our weekly contribution is a good example. It is possible for a person to contribute large sums into the church treasury but still be wrong before God. The church and the eldership may know that the person gives liberally. They can be impressed by his generosity. Outwardly, all looks good. God, however, also sees the heart. He might see a heart that gives grudgingly or of necessity. This type of giving is not acceptable to God. God loves a cheerful giver. He wants one who gives willingly and eagerly, not because he has to give (II Cor. 9:7). Yes, outward appearances can fool man, but they do not fool God. If the idea that God looks mainly at a sincere heart is correct, why was Uzzah slain by God? David desired to put the ark of God in Jerusalem. The ark was carried into the holy city on a cart drawn by oxen. When the oxen crossed a threshing floor, the oxen stumbled and the ark of the covenant looked like it might fall. At that point, “...Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it” (II Sam. 6:6). Uzzah's move were a “gut” reaction. He did not want the ark to fall. Surely, he had a “good heart” in this matter. His “good heart,” however, did not offset his disobedience (Num. 4:15). Because of his disobedience, the anger of God was kindled against Uzzah. “And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of the Lord” (II Sam. 6:7). This is just one example of many that could be given to show that good hearts do not justify inappropriate actions. Dear readers, Satan is the master of deception. He will do anything he can do to get us to sin against God. He will even warp our minds if he can. Paul wrote: “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (II Cor. 11:3). Don't let Satan deceive you into thinking that your deeds can be wrong as long as your heart is right. God has always demanded that both heart and actions be in harmony with God's will. It is Satan who wants you to believe otherwise.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Kyle and Tiffany Hobbs (8th)
- ⇒ Mae Downs (10th)
- ⇒ Amber Puckett (11th)
- ⇒ Rhonda Tracy (13th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Joel, Amos, Obadiah
- ⇒ **Team:** Team 2 meets today
- ⇒ **Area events:** Please see bulletin board for more info. Several meetings, singings, and Bible schools are coming up in our area.
- ⇒ **Personal invitation handouts** are available . Please make sure to take some and handout or leave with a tip, and invite someone to our service!
- ⇒ **Congregational visit:** On 3-29 we will visit Kirksey.
- ⇒ **New Directory Pages:** Info for the Hobbs', Hutchison's, and new birthday pages are available. Please see Luke or Amber to pick these up so you can add them to your directory.
- ⇒ **Bible Bowl:** Will be Saturday 3-14 at the Green Plain church building. All ages from K-12th grade participate. The study is over the book of James. If interested, see Wesley for more info.
- ⇒ **Baby shower:** For Andy and Maddie on 3-15-15
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Crackers

Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Ray Stembridge—Sick with an ear infection/Back trouble
- ⇒ Ima Barnes
- ⇒ Tonya Jones
- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs (Received great news from the doctors :)
- ⇒ Johnny Downs
- ⇒ Hyland Darnell
- ⇒ Norma Darnell (Has found out she has Parkinson's disease)
- ⇒ Debbie Smith (Kevin's sister-in-law-cancer)
- ⇒ Greg Black (Kathy Black's son)
- ⇒ Loretta Haley (cancer)
- ⇒ David Edwards (Josh Fulcher's uncle-cancer)
- ⇒ Billy Irvan
- ⇒ Jana Ward (cancer)
- ⇒ Todd Walker
- ⇒ Trudy Smith
- ⇒ Wanda Riley (Josh Fulcher's Aunt)
- ⇒ James McAbee
- ⇒ Dorothy McNeely (Richard Adams' sister, has cancer)
- ⇒ Derek Adams (Richard Adams' grandson, has leukemia)
- ⇒ Mallory Harrison Berry (friend of Stembridges, has brain cancer)
- ⇒ Richard & Rachel Guill
- ⇒ Lashell Jones
- ⇒ Amanda Griechen (Bob and Susanna Austin's Granddaughter)
- ⇒ 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.coldwaterchurchof
christ.org](http://www.coldwaterchurchofchrist.org). You will find
bulletins, sermon outlines,
and other helpful links
and material.



MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Amos 1:3 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they have threshed Gilead with implements of iron."

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: parabasis (παράβασις)

Pronounced: *par-ab'-as-is*

Translated into the word we use today: Transgression or breaking.

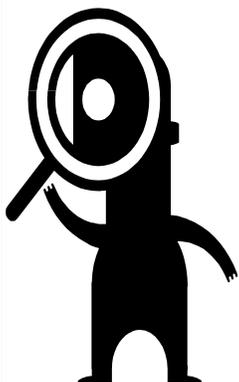
Meaning: according to Strong is: to violate, break or transgress. Thayer's says it is a going over or to disregard or violate the law. Thayer's also says it is to create transgressions, i.e. that sins might take on the character of transgressions, and thereby the consciousness of sin be intensified and the desire for redemption be aroused.

Supporting verse: 1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Romans 2:23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

As we think about transgressing or breaking the law, a lot of times we think about it on a physical level. Maybe we are speeding or violating something else that the law of the land has set in place. When we are "caught", we then face the consciousness of our actions. We then might plead with the officer not to give us a ticket or the judge to be lenient on us. On the spiritual side, it's not much different, only we will deal with a just God. When we do something that God has not ordained, then we have transgressed or broken the law. When we do this, it should cause us to immediately seek forgiveness from God. God is willing to give us forgiveness, He is willing wash away the wrong we have done, if we are willing to obey Him and receive His mercy, love and forgiveness.



Bible question: Who had his armor bearer kill him to avoid the disgrace of being killed by a women?

Last week's question and answer: What object did a man dream about that would smite and overturn the tents of Midian?

Answer: Loaf of barley bread (Judges 7:13)

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