

# THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

**March 23, 2014**

## **Coldwater church of Christ**

8467 State Route 121 N  
Murray, KY 42071

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www.coldwaterchurch  
ofchrist.org

coldwatercoc@wk.net

### **ELDERS**

Richard Price  
Kevin Smith  
Bill Vincent

### **DEACONS**

Bob Austin  
Johnny Downs  
Josh Fulcher

### **PREACHER**

Luke Puckett

### **SUNDAY SERVICE**

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

### **WEDNESDAY**

Bible Class: 7:00pm

### **LADIES CLASS**

Tuesdays at 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:**

Kevin Smith

### **Opening Prayer:**

Bob Austin

### **Scripture Reading:**

Ray Stembridge

### **Lord's Table**

Josh Fulcher  
Johnny Downs  
David Dodd  
Bob Austin

### **Closing Prayer:**

Josh Price

### **Greeters (East)**

Bill & Maria

### **Greeters (West)**

Ray & Jill

### **LESSONS**

AM: Lord Send  
Someone Else  
By: Luke Puckett  
Scripture reading:  
Isaiah 6:5-10

PM: Appointed to  
Eternal Life  
By: Luke Puckett  
Scripture reading:  
Acts 13:44-49

# “TO BE OR NOT TO BE? —THAT IS THE QUESTION”

*BY: Jonnie Hutchison*

Let's borrow the famous words of William Shakespeare which serve as the title of this article and make a spiritual application. To be a Christian or not to be a Christian—that is the question faced by all who learn about Jesus Christ. Original Christianity exists today because of what Jesus did for lost humanity (John 3:16; Romans 5:8-10). Every man, woman and child now living must decide if the claims of our Lord are true or false. Most who reject the way of the Lord do so because of their own selfishness. They want to live their lives without any spiritual obligations or accountability indulging in whatever sinful pleasure they desire. But such rejection does not change the fact that no one can escape his/her individual obligation and accountability before God. Inspiration declares, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10 NKJV). The devil has deceived so many into believing that God will accept menial service and will overlook occasional departures into sin. But the Bible teaches that God will “bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:14). No accountable soul will escape responsibility before God under any circumstances. One cannot serve two masters at the same time (Matthew 6:24). Either God is ones Master or the devil is ones master. One who attempts to serve both God and the devil at the same time will find his life to be unhappy and miserable—at least until his heart becomes so hardened that his conscience no longer pricks him as it was designed to do. The He-brew writer warns, “but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:13 NKJV).

Each individual must decide if he will be a servant of God or a servant of the devil and sin. To be a Christian or not to be a Christian? —that is the question! Atheists have made their decision. Agnostics, though expressing doubt as to the validity of the existence of God and their accountability to Him, nonetheless, have made their choice, for Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” (Matthew 12:30 NKJV). Many “religious people,” believing they are Christians, faithfully serving the Lord, have sadly embraced the “doctrines and commandments of men” which will lead to the Lord addressing them at the judgment with the words, “... I do not know you, where you are from, Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.” (Matthew 15:8-9; Luke 13:27). Those who have embraced religious denominationalism and rejected original Christianity are included in this tragic circumstance. Many know no better, but ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. As Jesus told the Jewish leaders of His day, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.” (John 5:39-40 NKJV). The failure to give up human religious tradition to embrace original New Testament Christianity proves that many have in essence decided not to be a Christian. For one can only be a Christian on God's terms not on the terms of the teachings and commandments of men.

To be a Christian or not to be a Christian? — that is the question. It is a question faced by every person who has obeyed the gospel of Christ. Will I let my light shine or hide it under a basket? (Matthew 5:16). Will I live by the faith of the Son of God or live like the sinners around me live? (Galatians 2:20). Will I put God first in every decision I must make or will I put the things of this world and my own selfish desires first? (Matthew 6:33). Will I diligently search the scriptures to find answers to life's problems or will I take the advice of worldly minded “experts” over the Bible? (2 Timothy 2:15). Will I be diligent in using my abilities and opportunities to teach lost souls or will I use my abilities and opportunities only to achieve worldly goals? (Matthew 16:26). Will I be a faithful, loving companion to my spouse as “heirs together of the grace of life” or will I mistreat and abuse my mate for my own selfish ends? (1 Peter 3:7; Eph. 5:23ff).

Yes, to be or not to be a Christian? That is the question. Each of us are answering this question by the lives we are presently living. What is your answer?

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Vicki Wilson (25h)
- ⇒ Helen Tidwell (26th)

## Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** (Numbers)
- ⇒ **Team 4** meets today
- ⇒ **Bible bowl** plans made with Green Plain congregation for May 3rd . Ages are Kindergarten through 12th grade. If interested please see Luke Puckett or Wesley Tucker. Topic will be miracles and parables of Christ.
- ⇒ **Area events:** Please see bulletin board for more info. Several meetings, singing classes 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!
- ⇒ **Remember:** 5th Sunday singing and potluck on 3-30-14
- ⇒ **Remember:** We will visit Kirksey on 3-30-14
- ⇒ **Workday:** 4-12-14 at 8:00am here at the building
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Mixed Vegetables

## Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Ruby Arnett (Heritage Manor nursing home in Mayfield Room 307)
- ⇒ Debbie Smith (Kevin's sister-in-law-cancer)
- ⇒ Greg Black (Kathy Black's son)
- ⇒ Loretta Haley (cancer)
- ⇒ David Edwards (Josh Fulcher's uncle-cancer)
- ⇒ Jana Ward (cancer)
- ⇒ Todd Walker
- ⇒ Trudy Smith
- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Norma & Hyland Darnell
- ⇒ J.D. Lamb (Fern Terrace)
- ⇒ Wanda Riley (Josh Fulcher's Aunt)
- ⇒ Delbert Newsome
- ⇒ Marilyn Dvorak (friend of Bob and Susanna, has esophagus cancer)
- ⇒ Dorothy McNeely (Richard Adams' sister, has cancer)
- ⇒ Derek Adams (Richard Adams' grandson, has leukemia)
- ⇒ Jim Pool (member at Green Plain)
- ⇒ Mallory Harrison Berry (friend of Stembridges, has brain cancer)
- ⇒ Garret Austin (Bob and Susanna's grandson has fatty tumor on hip)
- ⇒ Vicki Wilson
- ⇒ 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.coldwaterchurchofchrist.org](http://www.coldwaterchurchofchrist.org). You will find  
bulletins, sermon outlines,  
and other helpful links  
and material.



## LORD SEND SOMEONE ELSE

What did God call Jonah to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did Jonah decide to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
When God needed someone to go and do His will, who was willing to go? \_\_\_\_\_  
What words did Isaiah use to show his willingness to do God's will? \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. God's Call to Jonah.

- What "type" of call did God make to Jonah? \_\_\_\_\_
- How does God "call" us today? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is God's Word all we need? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are we told to go. If so, how? \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. What Jonah Heard From God.

- What did Jonah hear from God? \_\_\_\_\_
- Jonah heard the truth from God, but did he want to do God's will? \_\_\_\_\_
- Give examples in the Bible where people heard God but ignored His will. \_\_\_\_\_
- What are some things God tells us, but we ignore Him on? \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. The Fall of Jonah.

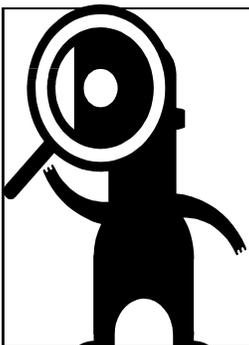
- What did Jonah try to do after ignoring God? \_\_\_\_\_
- Can a person hide from God? \_\_\_\_\_ Does this stop some from trying? \_\_\_\_\_
- How do some try to hide from God today? \_\_\_\_\_
- When hiding, we might hit rock bottom, but can we get back up? \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Jonah Repented and Did the Will of God.

- What did Jonah finally do, and why? \_\_\_\_\_
- Can we repent and come back to God if we fall and need to repent? \_\_\_\_\_
- Give NT verses that says we fall but can come back. \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Bible question: What Canaanite city was burned down by the men of Dan?

Last week's answer: Ezra (Ezra 9:1-3)

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