

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..." (Jude 3)
March 27, 2016

Coldwater church of Christ

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ELDERS

Richard Price
Kevin Smith
Bill Vincent

DEACONS

Johnny Downs
Josh Fulcher
Josh Price
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:

Bill Vincent

Lead Singing:

Ron Hutchison

Opening Prayer:

Josh Fulcher

Scripture Reading:

Nathia Whitley

Lord's Table

Richard Price
Mitchell Smith
Josh Price
Johnny Downs

Closing Prayer:

Andy Johnson

Greeters (East)

Amber and Boys

Greeters (West)

Linda and Kay

LESSONS

AM: A Convenient Time

Scripture reading:

Acts 24:22-26

PM: God Gave Increase

Scripture reading:

1Corinthians 3:1-9

THREE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

By: Andy Brewer

When the eunuch confessed that he believed Jesus was the Christ the Son of God he was doing much more than just acknowledging acceptance of a divine truth. He was expressing his willingness for that truth to be the center of his life. From that point on, everything he would do and say would be with Jesus' authority (Colossians 3:17). He would no longer be his own. He would belong to God and the life he was living would be a life lived by faith (Galatians 2:20). He accepted that he would be a new creature, unlike anything or anyone he had ever been; molded and fashioned by the hand of God (Ephesians 4:24). He was committing to be a disciple, a true disciple.

But what does it mean to be a true disciple? There's a lot that could be said to answer that question but I want to focus on 3 specific verses where Jesus addressed exactly what discipleship demands and how it applies to our attempts to be true disciples.

Discipleship demands commitment. In John 8:31 Jesus said, "If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples..." *If* implies that this is a conditional statement. That means our discipleship is contingent on the degree to which we are committed to living according to His will. That means that being a believer goes far beyond a generic belief in God. It implies absolute submission through obedience. A generic belief in God makes one no better than the demons who believe and tremble (James 2:19) because faith apart from works is dead (vs. 20). We are Christ's workmanship (Colossians 2:10) and that requires the commitment to abide in Christ's word because if we abide in His word, then we are His disciples.

Discipleship demands sacrifice. Discipleship isn't always pretty, comfortable, or convenient. God warned us that to be true disciples it is going to cost us something. In Matthew 16 Jesus said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it" (vs. 24-25). Discipleship will at the very least cost us our lives as they once were. That's because to be a true disciple

seeking the kingdom and the righteousness of God comes first (Matthew 6:33) – everything else, as important as it may be, must be secondary. My time, my energy, my family, my works, my money are not my own anymore – they must largely be used doing what God wants me to do. Christians are told to be sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill our ministries (2 Timothy 4:5). So if we want to be true disciples than it is going to require sacrifice. We must deny ourselves take us our crosses, and follow after Him.

Discipleship demands humility. Just before sending His disciples out to teach, preach, and heal He offered them some wisdom about how they were to approach their work. Included was some information about who they were to concentrate on teaching, what they were supposed to do, and how they were to deal with rejection. But included in that wisdom was some information about what it means to be a disciple – "a disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his lord" (Matthew 10:24). They had to learn humility because of what they would face. Jesus warned them that they would face rejection (vs. 14), that they would be as sheep sent in among wolves (vs. 16), that they would be delivered up to councils and be scourged in synagogues (vs. 17), that they would be brought before governors and kings (vs. 18), that their work would put them at odds with their families (vs. 21), that they would be hated of all men (vs. 22), and that they would be persecuted (vs. 23). But humility would dictate that even in the midst of this adversity they would not bend, bow, nor break. If they would just humble themselves under the mighty hand of God He would exalt them in due time (2 Peter 5:6).

A church is only as strong as its commitment to discipleship. Too often a church is plagued by a membership of masters. Christians should be more concerned with simply being true believers and humble servants. That is the true meaning of discipleship.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Jeremiah
- ⇒ **Team workgroup:** Team 4 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!
- ⇒ **Congregational visit:** We will visit Mount Olive tonight.
- ⇒ **Monthly Men's Class:** April 5th at 6:30pm here at the building.
- ⇒ **Gospel Meeting:** April 10-13 with Alan Adams. Make plans to be here this week.
- ⇒ **Potluck:** April 10 after AM service.
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Pork and Beans

Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Johnny Downs
- ⇒ Hyland Darnell
- ⇒ Norma Darnell (Has found out she has Parkinson's disease)
- ⇒ Virgil Hale
- ⇒ Jonnie Hutchison (Amber's father is having eye trouble)
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ 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)
- ⇒ Jay Kolb (Friend of Bill and Maria has brain tumor)
- ⇒ Caleb Teasly (Kevin's cousin's son, 4 years old)
- ⇒ Bob Austin (having tests run for issues with his lungs)
- ⇒ Paula Fulcher (Back surgery)
- ⇒ 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

Jeremiah 21:8 "Now you shall say to this people, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: Thanatos (θάνατος)

Pronounced: than'-at-os

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

Meaning: according to Strong is: From G2348; (properly an adjective used as a noun) *death* (literally or figuratively): - X deadly, (be . . .) death. Thayer adds 2) metaphorically, the loss of that life which alone is worthy of the name, 2a) the misery of the soul arising from sin, which begins on earth but lasts and increases after the death of the body in hell, 3) the miserable state of the wicked dead in hell

Supporting verse: Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

In our verse for the week, Jeremiah 21:8, we see that The Lord says “Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death”. God is giving them a choice to make. He is giving them the path of life, if they so choose it, or the way of death. We today have the same choice to make. God has given everyone a way that leads to life and a way that leads to death. He has done this by giving us the power to choose. We can serve Him or the world, that is life or death, but we can't serve both (Matthew 6:24). God has given us life by the death of His Son. We see that God loved us enough to give Christ to die on the cross, to shed His blood, so that we can have life by the forgiveness of our sins. We have spiritual life and the hope of it because of Christ. God wants all of us to have this spiritual life. Titus 2:11 tells us this, that “the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to ALL MEN”. God gave His Son to everyone. All we have to do is obey Him (Heb 5:8-9). This is why we have today and everyday that God will bless us with. In 2Peter 3:9 we see “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” See, God allows this earth another day with the hope that some will repent and obey Him. Again we see that it is up to us; we have to repent and obey Him. If not, then we choose the way of death and eternal separation from Him.



Bible question: On what mountain did Elijah challenge the priests of Baal?

Last week's question and answer: Whose enticing dance proved fatal for John the immerser?

Answer: The daughter of Herodias (Matthew 14:6-8)

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