

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

April 12, 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

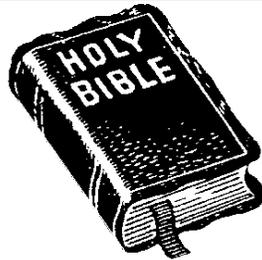
Bible Class: 9:30
AM Worship: 10:15
PM Worship: 1:00

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:

Bill Vincent

Lead Singing:

Josh Price

Opening Prayer:

Ron Hutchison

Scripture Reading:

Kyle Hobbs

Lord's Table

Andy Johnson
Luke Puckett
Richard Price
Hyland Darnell

Closing Prayer:

Chris Smith

Greeters (East)

Chris and Theresa

Greeters (West)

Kay and Linda

WELCOME

Robert and Emily
Hatfield

We are honored to have you with us this week for our gospel meeting.

A GREAT TOOL FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

By: Robert Hatfield

Everyone suffers – the good and the bad, the old and the young, the rich and the poor. No one is exempt. Christians certainly aren't excused from suffering. Jesus said that the prophets were persecuted and we will be, too (Mat. 5:10-12). Paul said that all Christians will suffer (2 Tim. 3:12). He knew, in a deeply personal way, the pain of suffering, yet he said that today's sufferings can't compare to eternity's glory (Rom. 8:18).

Persecution is an opportunity for spiritual growth. Do you want to be closer to God and to God's people? There's hardly a better way to deepen your faith than to endure persecution. That's why James tells us to "count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (James 1:2), because "the man who endures temptation ... will receive the crown of life" (James 1:12).

Allow me to direct our attention to 1 Peter 4. Much of this entire book is devoted to the topic of suffering for our faith. Peter says that Christ suffered for us and that we were called to suffering ourselves (1 Pet. 2:21). He continues the conversation about Christ's suffering in chapter three: "Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Pet. 3:18). It is with that backdrop that chapter four begins.

"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God" (1 Pet. 4:1-2).

Will you respond to suffering in a way that will bring about spiritual growth for your soul? Peter tells us how to do it here in 1 Peter 4.

1. Be defended.

Peter says that we need to be armed to defend

ourselves against one of Satan's most powerful weapons, persecution. You know as well as I do that the devil will use suffering to shake our faith. Peter says that we must arm ourselves with the mind of Christ. When Jesus "suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Pet. 2:23). That's what we must do.

2. Be determined.

Some people are going to think that we're weird for choosing a path that could bring suffering our way (1 Pet. 4:3-4). Peter assures us, "do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you" (1 Pet. 4:12). We do that, don't we? We suffer and wonder, "Why is this happening to me?". But why do we think that we're the only

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Christians who will never suffer? Why do we think that we will be the only Christians in history who haven't been persecuted? Peter says that our suffering is not strange. Instead, we ought to be determined to rejoice in it (1 Pet. 4:13), to glorify God in it (1 Pet. 4:16), and to commit our souls to God in it (1 Pet. 4:19).

Let's wrap it up: Do you *really* want to be a strong Christian? Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake" (Mat. 5:10). When the pain comes, let's choose the path of growth. Christianity is called "the Way" in the book of Acts. We don't claim that it's the easy way. We don't claim that it's the way of least resistance. But it is the right way. It's the way that Jesus says leads to eternal life and rest with Him and with God. That's the way that I want to walk. What about you?

Via—<http://roberthatfield.net/>

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Reagan Meredith (16th)
- ⇒ Gerald Rule (18th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Hebrews
- ⇒ **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!
- ⇒ **Potluck:** Today after AM service for our gospel meeting.
- ⇒ **New Directory Pages:** Info for the Hobbs', Hutchison's, Whitley's, and new birthday pages are available. Please see Luke or Amber to pick these up so you can add them to your directory.
- ⇒ **Gospel Meeting:** This week, April 12-15, with Robert Hatfield. Be sure to help advertise this event. Flyers are in the foyer.
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Shampoo

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
- ⇒ Michael Inman (Tonya Jones' stepdad)
- ⇒ 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.coldwaterchurchofchrist.org. You will find
bulletins, sermon outlines,
and other helpful links
and material.



MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Hebrews 2:3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: sōtēria (σωτηρία)

Pronounced: *so-tay-ree'-ah*

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

Meaning: according to Strong is: *rescue* or *safety* (physically or morally): - deliver, health, salvation, save, saving. Thayer says it is deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation. Thayer goes on to say it is deliverance from the molestation of enemies or in an ethical sense, that which concludes to the soul's safety or salvation from sin.

Supporting verse: Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

A man was in a horrible car wreck in which his car was on fire. The man inside was trapped, was unable to get out and was going to die in his car. Then someone comes to his aid and gets him out of his car. The once trapped man tells his rescuer thanks for saving me. We are all like the trapped man, but we are trapped in sin (Rom 3:23). We will die in those sins (Rom 6:23), but someone has seen us trapped and has given us a way out. Jesus the Christ is our savior. He came to this earth to set us free from sin (Luke 19:10). He saw that we are in desperate need of salvation, so He left His home in heaven, came to this earth and died on the cross for all men. On that cross, He shed His blood that we, through obedience to Him (Heb 5:8-9), can be saved from our sins!



Bible question: What kind of tree did the weary Elijah sit under?

Last week's question and answer: In a Parable, what was the woman who searched her house with a lantern looking for?

Answer: Lost coin (Luke 15:8)

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