

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

June 21, 2015

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

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:

Mitchell Smith

Opening Prayer:

Richard Price

Scripture Reading:

Gerald Rule

Lord's Table

Wesley Tucker
Andy Johnson
Kevin Smith
Johnny Downs

Closing Prayer:

Richard Jones

Greeters (East)

Josh and Andrea

Greeters (West)

Andy and Maddie

LESSONS

AM: Fornication
and Adultery Attacks
Our Home

Scripture reading:

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

PM: The Judgment

Scripture reading:

2 Corinthians 5:7-12

Has the Distinctiveness of the Church Been Forgotten?

By: Robert Hatfield

I have in front of me an article titled *Local Church of Christ adds instrument to worship*. It was published last week, April 16, 2015, from *The Daily News Journal* out of Rutherford County, Tennessee. The article reports that “the Stones River church of Christ made a radical move – at least by denominational standards – to allow instrumental worship to take place on Sunday morning.”

There are several things that concern me about this article. I am concerned that this congregation would decide to introduce instruments into worship, thereby departing from the New Testament pattern for true worship (as we discussed yesterday). However, perhaps the addition of the instrument is a symptom of a much larger problem – that is, a problem of misunderstanding the uniqueness of the one, true church of the Bible.

This article follows in the footsteps of one published by *USA Today* last month. The national newspaper ran an article on March 6, 2015 with this headline: *Church of Christ opens door to musical instruments*. The article chronicled the journey of the Otter Creek church in Brentwood, TN as they, too, decided to add the instrument into some of their worship services.

In the Otter Creek piece, Heidi Hall writes, “Church of Christ commitment to a cappella dates to the faith’s emergence in the 1800s Restoration Movement.” Hall goes on to say, “Scriptural citations backing the a cappella tradition include a passage in Ephesians about singing hymns and making music in the heart. But Otter Creek’s preaching and teaching minister, Josh Graves, said church history is a stronger influence.”

Have some members of the Lord’s church forgotten the distinctiveness, the purity, the separation from worldliness (including worldly religions) of the one, true church of the Bible?

With all of the love in my heart, I must say that the Bible only speaks of one church. It’s the Lord’s house that Isaiah said would begin in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-3). It’s the kingdom that Daniel said the Lord would set up which would never be destroyed (Dan. 2:44). It is the church that Christ Himself promised to build (Mat. 16:18-19). It is that kingdom that Christ said is not of this world (John 18:36), that would come even before some of Jesus’

apostles and first-century disciples died (Mark 9:1).

This is the one church to which the believers were added upon their baptism in Acts 2:47. It is that church that spread like wildfire throughout the New Testament world (Acts 8:1-4), that walked in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:31). That is the kingdom of which the Christians in Colossae were a part (Col. 1:13).

Jesus is the Head of that church (Eph. 1:22-23). He is the Chief Shepherd of it (1 Pet. 5:1-4). It is that one church that He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). He gave Himself for the church (Eph. 5:25).

It is that church, referred to as Christ’s body in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians, and elsewhere, that the New Testament clearly teaches that there is only one (Eph. 4:4).

Let’s wrap it up: I return to this article that I have before me which states that the Church of Christ is a denomination that came out of the Restoration Movement in the 1800’s. That’s just not true.

I don’t want to be a member of a denomination. I want to be a member of the church that Jesus promised to build, the one that was established in His name in Acts 2. This is real history! These are the facts. That’s the church that I want to be a part of. Don’t you?

So why are articles about instrumental music, women serving as preachers, and a host of other topics popping up in newspapers all across the country? It seems that at least one reason is because some people have forgotten that the Lord’s church is not a denomination. It’s precious. It’s Christ’s bride (Eph. 5). It’s unique.

— Via <http://roberthatfield.net/>

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Bradley Smith (25th)
- ⇒ Hazel Brandon (26th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Galatians and Ephesians
- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **Personal invitation handouts** are available . Please make sure to take some and handout or leave with a tip, and invite someone to our service!
- ⇒ **School Supplies:** Team 1 is hosting a back to school supply drive. A list of needed items is on the bulletin board. Please help bring in supplies and give to someone on team 1.
- ⇒ **New books** in the library have been donated in memory of Delbert Newsome by his family.
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: **Jelly**

Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Clemmie Black (At Spring Creek room # 420 B in station 4)
- ⇒ Ray Stembridge
- ⇒ Ima Barnes
- ⇒ Tonya Jones
- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Johnny Downs
- ⇒ Hyland Darnell
- ⇒ Norma Darnell (Has found out she has Parkinson's disease)
- ⇒ Shirley Rule
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Jana Ward (cancer)
- ⇒ Trudy Smith
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Lashell Jones
- ⇒ Michael Inman (Tonya Jones' stepdad)
- ⇒ Brandon Patrick (Friend of Josh and Jennifer, was in a car wreck)
- ⇒ 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

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: charis (αγάπη)

Pronounced: khar'-ece

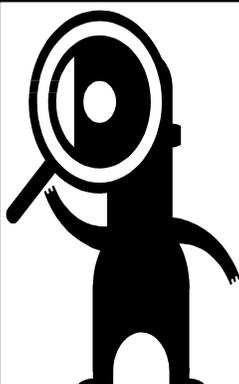
Translated into the word we use today: **GRACE**

Meaning: according to Strong is: graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude): - acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

Supporting verse: Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

We hear a lot about God's grace today. We sing songs about it like one of the most well known spiritual hymns, "Amazing Grace". Unfortunately, today so many have taken God's word and His teaching on grace and twisted it. Yes, we are saved by God's grace. Without God's grace, His love for us even when we didn't deserve it, we would be lost. We must know how God's grace is manifested though. God's love for us came because of our sin. Our sin separates us from God, and he wants us to be able to be joined back to Him. We have NO way of doing that without His help, so He sent His Son, the Christ, our Savior to die on the cross for us. This is God's grace. Titus 2:11 says it has appeared to all men. Christ died for all of us. This is God's love and the grace He showed us even though we are unworthy of it. Just because Christ came and died for all, does not mean that all will be saved. See, if we were saved just by grace alone, then all would be saved because God's grace has been made available to all men. We see some will be lost (Matt 7:13-14). If we want to accept God's grace then we must obey His will (Heb 5:8-9, John 14:15). Don't ignore what God and Christ have done for us. Accept His gracious gift and obey His word, and heaven will be your home.



Bible question: What king had troublesome dreams that kept him from sleeping?

Last week's question and answer: What feast did Mordecai prescribe his letters to the Jews in Persia? **Answer:** Purim (Esther 9:20-21)

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