

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

June 28, 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:

Ron Hutchison

Opening Prayer:

Andy Johnson

Scripture Reading:

Chris Smith

Lord's Table

Kevin Smith
Wesley Tucker
Andy Johnson
Johnny Downs

Closing Prayer:

Bradley Smith

Greeters (East)

Josh and Jennifer

Greeters (West)

Tammy and Elizabeth

LESSONS

AM: Lack of
Discipline in the Home

Scripture reading:

Ephesians 6:1-3

PM: All Have
Sinned

Scripture reading:

Romans 3:19-26

Thoughts on Transgenderism, The Redemption of Jesus, and what Christians Need to be Doing

By: Jack Dodgen

Every now and again I struggle with how to begin the article I'm trying to write, as is common for people who write regularly, but this post today is a little different. As I write this, Bruce Jenner is now living his life under the new name of Caitlyn Jenner. In his mind he has fully made the transition from male to female, and this isn't just okay, it's being praised as brave and courageous by much of the internet world (this was the number one trending topic on both Facebook and Twitter yesterday when the news broke).

I don't know the mind of someone wishing to make a transition from one gender to another and so my hope with this article is not to condemn those who are transgender, though I do believe it is a sinful action. I'm not here to cast stones at other sinners, but to help them find their way to Christ as many have done for me. This is not an article meant to shame transgenders, but one I hope elevates the power of Christ and encourages Christians to be more active in our culture.

A few weeks ago I preached a sermon from Isaiah 53. For those who do not know, Isaiah 53 is one of the largest chunks of prophecy concerning the Messiah (i.e. Jesus) in the Old Testament. In this chapter we read of the assuming nature of Christ, that this King wouldn't look anything like one (53:2), and that he'd, in fact, look just like everyone else (2-3). We read of Jesus' emotional (4), physical (5) and spiritual (5-6) sufferings. We read about his silent submission under oppression (7-9), until Isaiah ends the chapter telling us that the great suffering and anguish Jesus dealt with was all for us (11-12), and all according to God's plan (10).

When we read Isaiah 53 we should keep in the back of our minds that this punishment Jesus went through up to and on the cross was punishment that he didn't deserve, that he didn't want to go through (Mt. 26:38-39, 42), and that it was done for us (2 Cor. 5:21). Why write all this in a piece about transgenderism? Because Jesus had the transgender in mind when he was hanging there. The transgender, like the alcoholic, murderer, liar, disobedient, thief, addict, homosexual, and lazy are all deserving, like you and me, of death for our sin, but Jesus paid the price for us all (John 3:16).

I write all of this for us Christians. We have a tendency to look at things like homosexuality, transgenderism, pornography addiction, etc. as gross and perverted and disgusting. Are they sinful? I believe so.

Transgenderism, like homosexuality and pornography glorify the physical and pervert God's creation. They are however not any more sinful than the lie you told your boss or that gossip you spread about your friend. Our sins don't get a pass because they're not as sexual

in nature as these others are. All sin can be washed away by Jesus Christ, and it's on this point that I want to hang my hat today.

Chances are we aren't going to deal with transgenderism in our lives directly. We probably won't have a friend or relative tell us that they've felt like they've actually been a male/female their whole life. The effect on us is more indirect. The effect is a culture that views the church as bigots because we don't support the actions of a transgender. The effect is a world that views us as hateful because we spend all our time calling transgenders and homosexuals "sinful" without focusing on the One who freed us from sin.

So, Christians, what can we do? In a culture where we're just highly evolved DNA and able to change our biological makeup by saying "it doesn't feel right" what can we do?

We can pray. It's said so often, but practiced so infrequently. When was the last time you prayed for those who believe their emotional self is not what their physical self suggests? Can you imagine how emotionally taxing it must be on someone who is a man but believes they're a woman? It has to be mentally anguishing. Stop and say a prayer for them that God would bring them peace. Pray that God would reveal Himself to them, and that they'd seek Him out and root their identity in Him.

We can focus more on Christ. By "focus more on Christ" I don't mean that we ought to ignore things that are sinful. Christ wasn't one to ignore sin, but his purpose in illuminating that sin was not to tear the sinner down, but encourage him and introduce him to the powerful grace of God. Instead of writing about how "godless" and "perverted" we think others are, why not talk about how godless and perverted you were until Jesus turned you around?

Transgenderism is part of the next wave of things the church will need to deal with. Is this article a complete handling of the subject? Not even close, but it's something, and in a culture that is pushing boundaries further and further, a little something is good. Today the issue is transgenderism, tomorrow who knows, but one thing's for sure, no matter the issue Christ is the answer.

- See more at: <http://start2finish.org/thoughts-on-transgenderism-the-redemption-of-jesus-and-what-christians-need-to-be-doing/#sthash.nq3NhlNw.dpuf>

Birthdays & Anniversaries

⇒ Elizabeth Smith (28th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Galatians and Ephesians
- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **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: **Cake mix**

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 (Continuing to improve)
- ⇒ Weston Hobbs (fell and broke his collar bone)
- ⇒ 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)
- ⇒ Brooke McNutt (On bed rest)
- ⇒ 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

Eph 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism; (6) one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: sōma (σῶμα)

Pronounced: so'-mah

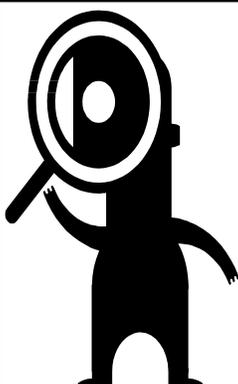
Translated into the word we use today: **BODY**

Meaning: according to Strong is: the body (as a sound whole), used in a very wide application, literally or figuratively: - bodily, body, slave. Thayer adds that it is used of a (large or small) number of men closely united into one society, or family as it were; a social, ethical, mystical body, so in the NT of the church.

Supporting verse: Eph 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

When we hear the word body, most of the time we think of our physical bodies, that which makes us up, our hands, feet, ect.. Yet there is another body which is spoken of in the Bible. This is the body of Christ. No, not His physical body, but His spiritual one. We notice in Eph 1:22-23 that this body is also the church. Just as without our physical head, we could not be, the same is true spiritually. Christ is the head of the body, or He is the head of the church. The church and body are one and the same. When it comes to the body or church, many think that there are many churches or bodies. This is true that there are many MAN MADE churches, but there is only ONE true church or body of Christ. See, Christ only has one spiritual body or one church that He died for and established. Notice Eph 4:4 "there is ONE BODY." How many bodies? ONE! What is the body? It is His Church. See, there is only one body and the body is the church, so Christ only established one church which is His one body. In this one body there are many different congregations, but they all make up the one body. This is great as to we can worship God as part of the one body anywhere we are at our local congregation which makes up the one church.



Bible question: What occurred when Jonathan and his armor-bearer attacked the Philistines?

Last week's question and answer: What king had troublesome dreams that kept him from sleeping? **Answer:** Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2)

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