

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..." (Jude 3)
July 10, 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



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:

Kevin Smith

Opening Prayer:

Ron Hutchison

Scripture Reading:

Kyle Hobbs

Lord's Table

Gerald Rule
Richard Price
Luke Puckett
Johnny Downs

Closing Prayer:

Richard Jones

Greeters (East)

Chris and Theresa

Greeters (West)

David and Bradley

LESSONS

AM: Night, with

Ebon Pinion

Scripture reading:

Luke 22:38-46

**PM: Keep from
Temptation**

Scripture reading:

James 1:12-16

OUR PASSION FOR GROWTH

By: Jack Gray

One of the most pressing desires of the Christian is to see the church grow. We want to see New Testament Christianity spread throughout the world and to see our local congregation flourish. This is as it should be, for the nature of all living things is to grow.

In emphasizing our need for growth, we are often pointed to the Jerusalem church. We are reminded of the 3,000 (Acts 2:41), the 5,000 (4:4), how multitudes were added (5:14), and then how they began to multiply (6:7). These are valid illustrations, but sometimes they create impressions which are not true at all.

It is implied that numerical growth is always associated with faithfulness, when Scripture teaches no such thing. When because of persecution (Acts 8:1) the Jerusalem church was reduced from maybe 50,000 to 12 in a single year, there was nothing at all wrong with the church. It was true, loyal, and mission minded as ever before.

It is implied that people are responsible for the increase, when God never placed that burden on us. The suggestion seems to be that if we just do the right things, great growth will automatically follow. Yet, the Bible teaches that God gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6). Our job is planting and watering. We are not commanded to convert the world or even our neighbor; but we are commanded to preach the Gospel to him. If we do that faithfully and lovingly, we are not responsible for the results.

It is implied that great growth indicates God's approval, when the reverse may be true. Mystic sects have gained millions of followers. Billy Graham has appealed to the

masses by standing for nothing doctrinally. Some of our fastest growing congregations fill their pulpits with twenty-minute "after dinner" speeches that would be acceptable in any denomination.

It is implied that something must be wrong with a congregation that has a declining membership, when it may be stronger and more godly than ever. Let someone leave the church for the world or some social club type of program, and people blame the church. Neither faithful churches nor Christians can be legitimately blamed for one who turns his back on Truth and righteousness. If all of us left, it would be no reflection on the church, but on the person.

This article is not a defense of smallness. It is to make us re-focus on our priorities. We had better be more concerned about Christ's meeting with us, than whether we draw large crowds.

We want to grow, but it is not our first priority. We are in sales. God is still in management. We would rather be "mean and lean" than to sell His approval for "growth."

—From *The Edifier*, Denton, TX

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Hyland and Norma (12th)
- ⇒ Harold Darnell (15th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Esther and Lamentations
- ⇒ **Team workgroup:** 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.
- ⇒ **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!
- ⇒ **Monthly Men's Class:** Tuesday, August 2nd at 6:30pm here at the building.
- ⇒ **Singing and fellowship:** 7-23 at 6:30 here at the building
- ⇒ **Visit:** We will visit Walnut Grove on 7-24.
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Laundry Detergent

Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Johnny Downs
- ⇒ Hyland Darnell
- ⇒ Norma Darnell (Has found out she has Parkinson's disease)
- ⇒ Shirley Rule (recovering from broken arm)
- ⇒ Virgil Hale
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Wanda Riley (Josh Fulcher's Aunt)
- ⇒ James McAbee
- ⇒ 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)
- ⇒ 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

Esther 3:5-6 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. (6) But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus--the people of Mordecai.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: eidōlolatrea (εἰδωλολατρεία)

Pronounced: *i-do-lol-at-ri'-ah*

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

Meaning: according to Strong is: From G1497 and G2999; image worship (literally or figuratively): - idolatry. Thayer adds 1) the worship of false gods, idolatry; 1a) of the formal sacrificial feasts held in honour of false gods, 1b) of avarice, as a worship of Mammon, 2) in the plural, the vices springing from idolatry and peculiar to it

Supporting verse: 1Co 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

In Esther 3, we see that Haman is promoted in King Ahasuerus' command. Haman and all others around them began to bow, paying homage, as to worship the king. This came on the king's command. Mordecai, though, refused to bow down before this earthly king. Once Haman found out, he sought not only to kill Mordecai but all the Jews. This account in Esther is not new. It also happened in the time of Daniel with Daniel and King Darius. Daniel refused to stop praying to God which got him thrown into a den of lions. It also happened when Nebuchadnezzar was king, and he wanted all to bow and worship an image he had created. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah refused to do so, which got them thrown into a fiery furnace. Sometimes this happens to us today. The world doesn't want us to serve and worship the God of heaven, so they threaten us and call us names to try and get us to stop, but we can't. We must not ever stop serving God and start serving other things or idols. We must be like Mordecai, Daniel and the others, willing and ready to give our lives for His cause. Let us never bow our knee to any other God, or put anything or anyone ahead of the true and living God. We must flee, even if it means our lives, from idolatry!



Bible question: What people burnt their children as an offering to the gods of Adramelech and Anammelech?

Last week's question and answer: What man, who was a robber, was released from prison at the time of the Passover?

Answer: Barabbas—(John 18:39-40)

Those answering: Kay Robertson, Linda Jones, Peggy Newsome, Rachel Adams