

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..."(Jude 3)
July 19, 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:

Bill Vincent

Lead Singing:

Mitchell Smith

Opening Prayer:

Richard Price

Scripture Reading:

Gerald Rule

Lord's Table

Josh Price
Mitchell Smith
Josh Fulcher
David Dodd

Closing Prayer:

Johnny Downs

Greeters (East)

Ima and Milodean

Greeters (West)

Kay and Linda

LESSONS

AM: The Love of
Money and the Home
Scripture reading:
1Timothy 6:9-10

PM: Faith in
Baptism is Faith in
Christ

Scripture reading:

Romans 6:1-7

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MUST SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST *by: Don Blackwell*

The church of Christ must seek and save the lost! I do not know that there is any subject more important for us to discuss than this one. When Jesus was on the earth, He said that His mission was "to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). As His body, our mission is the same. It seems, however, that sometimes we get distracted from our mission by the things going on around us. In the meantime, 110 souls die every minute and go into eternity. It is estimated that in 2005, 57.9 million people will depart from this earth. Almost 2 people per second pass into the Hadean realm to await their eternal reward. The percentage of these people who are prepared for eternity is very small. The vast majority of them are destined to eternal torment in Hell. Let us consider some reasons the church of Christ must seek and save the lost.

#1 - The church of Christ must seek and save the lost because no one else is qualified to do it! The Apostle Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for IT is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). Anything less than that gospel offers less than salvation. And anything less than salvation is damnation. I recently decided to count the number of "churches" in the Atlanta phone book. When I got to 1000, I gave up. There were still about as many pages left as I had counted. Therefore, I estimated that there are approximately 2000 churches in the Atlanta area. Fewer than 20 of them were faithful congregations of the Lord's body. The religious world is filled with preachers and teachers offering a gospel different from that which we read about in the New Testament. Sadly, however, they offer nothing but a salved conscience. Since men can only be saved by the true gospel, and only the church of Christ is preaching it, then we **MUST** seek and save the lost. If we will not preach it, then it simply will not be preached!

#2 - The church of Christ must seek and save the lost because of what it means to be lost. Luke 16 describes a man who died in a lost condition. This man, who is simply identified as "the rich man," lived a very comfortable life on this earth, but when he died, he lifted up his eyes in torment. He cried to Abraham for mercy, but the answer that came back was essentially "no mercy." For the one who dies lost, the time of hope and mercy has forever passed. All eternity holds for him is torment without end. Consider the horrors of this terrible place. First, consider the horror of darkness. The Bible says that those who go to Hell will spend eternity in darkness. Three times Matthew refers to Hell as a place of outer darkness. It is total, utter darkness. A second horror of Hell is fire. Its occupants will burn in fire. Mark 9:44 describes it as the place where "the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched." Normally, when a person dies, the body is buried and the worms consume the body, and then the process of destruction is over. Not so in Hell. The idea being expressed in this passage is that Hell is destruction without end. Its inhabitants will be consumed by fire, but the process of consumption never ceases. They will burn forever and ever. Revelation 14:11 says, "And the smoke of their torment

ascendeth up forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night." Consider also the horror of eternity. Eternity is not of itself a bad concept. In fact, it can be beautiful in a different context. But imagine eternity suffering in darkness, burning in fire, and surrounded by the most wicked souls who ever walked on the earth. Imagine knowing that there will be no relief tomorrow, or the next day, or a million years from now. It makes one shudder even to think what this condition will be like. Surely the church of Christ must seek and save the lost!

#3 - The church of Christ must seek and save the lost because of the urgency of their situation! How do we treat an emergency in the physical realm? If someone is having a heart attack or bleeding to death, we take immediate action because time is crucial. The situation with the one who is lost is much the same, except that the consequences are much more serious. When one dies lost, the eternity described above (Hell) is what he is facing. There is no other alternative. There is no second chance. There is no hope of parole. I have a friend who says, "Hell wouldn't be so bad if it only lasted a million years!" At first, that sounds crazy, but his point is that there would be hope of one day being released. But for those who die lost, there is no hope. It is forever too late. When we consider that 6619 people die every hour, and that nearly 2 people die every second, we have to see the urgency of seeking and saving the lost. In the time it has taken you to read to this point in this article, more than 200 people have left this world. Most of them were in a lost condition. The church of Christ must seek and save the lost!

#4 - The church of Christ must seek and save the lost because if we do not, we will be among the lost! Many Christians do not believe they will lose their souls if they do not carry the gospel to others. If they did, they would not treat the responsibility so lightly. If they did, nothing would stop them from teaching. Matthew 28:19, 20 commands that we go into all the world and teach the gospel to all nations. This is the command of the Lord! Who can believe he will be held guiltless for ignoring the command of the God? I John 2:3, 4 teaches us that those who do not obey the commandments of God do not know God. Surely such will not have a home in Heaven. Listen carefully to the words of Ezekiel 3:18, "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." The teaching is simple. If we don't warn the wicked, the wicked will die in his sins, but we will be guilty of his blood. The church of Christ must seek and save the lost! Jesus said He came to earth to seek and save the lost. As His body on earth today, we are the only ones qualified to carry on His mission. In light of what it means to be lost and the urgency of the situation, Christians had better step up to the task at hand before it is too late. If we do not, the eternity lost will be our own!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Andy and Maddie (24th)
- ⇒ Note (last week I had down Hyland's birthday on the 15, that should have been Harold Darnell)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah
- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **Congregational fellowship:** On Sunday July 26, we will have a homemade ice cream and finger food fellowship. It will begin at 5:00pm and be here at the building. Please see someone on team 1 to sign up what to bring.
- ⇒ **Congratulations:** Brad and Brooke on the birth of Drew.
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: **Canned Meat**

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)
- ⇒ 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

Hab 3:1-2 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth. (2) O LORD, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: deēsis (δέησις)

Pronounced: deh'-ay-sis

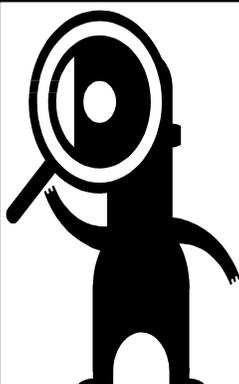
Translated into the word we use today: **PRAYER**

Meaning: according to Strong is: a petition: - prayer, request, supplication. Thayer adds, 1) need, indigence, want, privation, penury 2) a seeking, asking, entreating, entreaty to God or to man

Supporting verse: James 5:15-16 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (16) Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Prayer, to pray, to make request and give thanks to God. This is something that we are commanded to do. In 1Thes 5:17, we are told to “pray without ceasing”. In Acts 6:4, we see that they “gave ourselves continually to prayer”. This is something that as Christians we should do daily and not just once a day, but many times a day. The Bible, in the new law of Christ, no where tells us a specific number of times to pray a day, but it does imply that it should be multiple times. The Old law was written for our learning (Rom 15:4). In the old law we see that Daniel prayed at least three times a day. In Daniel 6:10 it says, “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.” Although we can’t bind a certain number of times to pray per day, as Christians I think that three is a good STARTING point. We should always go to God in prayer when we are in need and to give Him thanks. We should give Him thanks for the food He has blessed us with, and we should give Him thanks in the morning and before we go to bed. How often are you praying to God?



Bible question: Who prayed to God that it would not rain, and how long did it not rain for?

Last week’s question and answer: Where is it prophesied that some would cast lots for Jesus’ robe? **Answer:** Psalm 22:18

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