

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

July 20, 2014

Coldwater church of Christ

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ELDERS

Richard Price
Kevin Smith
Bill Vincent

DEACONS

Bob Austin
Johnny Downs
Josh Fulcher

PREACHER

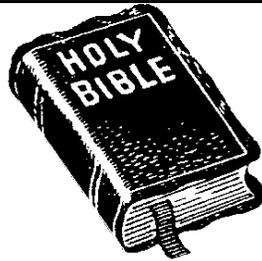
Luke Puckett

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:

Richard Price

Lead Singing:

Kevin Smith

Opening Prayer:

Andy Johnson

Scripture Reading:

Gerald Rule

Lord's Table

Andy Johnson
Josh Price
Josh Fulcher
Wesley Tucker

Closing Prayer:

Johnny Downs

Greeters (East)

Bob and Susanna

Greeters (West)

Kay and Linda

GUEST SPEAKER

David Myers

THE SINGLE LIFE *By: Victor M. Eskew*

In recent years, there has developed a deep concern both in and out of the church for individuals who are classified as “single.” Many singles groups have been started to address “issues” that face single adults. There are now many websites to which singles can go to help them address some of the problems that singles face.

One of the difficulties in working with those who are single involves the definition of “single.” Is a single someone who has never been married? Is someone single who is divorced and no longer married? Is a person single who is a widow or widower? Each of these groups has different struggles that must be faced. A twenty year old male who is single may be struggling with college. A divorcee could be dealing with custody issues with her ex. A widow may find that she is not able to put her grief behind her. All of these individuals live by themselves, and all of them face different obstacles in life.

One of the common issues faced by many singles involves loneliness. The single person often comes home to a very quiet house. The single individual may have to go to the movies or out to eat alone. Exciting experiences cannot really be enjoyed because no one is there with whom to share the experience. Too, hardships and illnesses are often faced alone. This loneliness causes them to desire a relationship. Sometimes the relationship may just be a friend. Most of the time, however, the desire is not for a friend, but for a mate.

The search for a mate can be a dangerous experience. Some singles are so desperate for a mate that they may marry very quickly. After a few months, they find that this is not the mate they truly desired, or, perhaps, this is not a relationship that has the approval of God. Other singles, while searching for a mate cannot control their sexual desires. Lust overcomes them continually, and they commit fornication time and time again. Still other singles just cannot find a mate. They may date often, but no one compatible can be found. This adds to their loneliness and often creates depression.

In one article, it is impossible to deal with everything that is involved in the single life. It is also impossible to provide the advice and comfort that singles need in order to live happier, more productive lives. But, let’s consider three important Biblical concepts that can assist those who are single. First, the only relationship that a person needs in order to be complete is a relationship with Jesus Christ. To the Colossians, Paul wrote: “And ye are complete in him which is the head of all principality and power” (Col. 2:10). If Jesus is one’s Master, there is not a need that He cannot supply for our lives. The psalmist put it in these words: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Ps. 23:1). One translated that last statement as follows: “I shall not want for anything.” Paul echoed this sentiment in Philippians 4:9. “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” In another psalm, the inspired writer said: “The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing” (Ps. 34:10). This concept is difficult for many singles to understand and accept. They are so convinced that joy and peace can only come from earthly relationships and worldly things that they forget the fullness of a relationship that exists with their Creator, loved One, Friend, and redeemer. If this relationship can be established, it will never be dissolved. At least, the Lord will never forsake it (Heb. 13:5). *Continued on page 4*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Andy and Maddie (24th)
- ⇒ Kyle and Kathryn (26)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Joshua
- ⇒ **Team 3** meets today
- ⇒ **Area events:** Please see bulletin board for more info. Several meetings 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!
- ⇒ Revelation for Christians Today by Lonnie Woodruff has been placed in the library in memory of Delbert Newsome.
- ⇒ **Baby Shower:** For Josh and Jennifer Price on 7-27 from 2:30-4 in the multi purpose room.
- ⇒ **New Directory:** Information forms are on the back tables. Please take one and fill it out, and turn in to Luke or Amber.
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Canned Peas

Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Ruby Arnett (Heritage Manor nursing home in Mayfield Room 307)
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Norma & Hyland Darnell
- ⇒ J.D. Lamb (Fern Terrace)
- ⇒ Wanda Riley (Josh Fulcher's Aunt)
- ⇒ Gerald Kilcoyne (Andrea Fulcher's Grandfather)
- ⇒ James McAbee
- ⇒ Michael Inman
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Teri Hale (Recovering from back surgery)
- ⇒ Tonya Jones
- ⇒ Ray Stembridge
- ⇒ Bob Austin
- ⇒ Johnny Downs
- ⇒ Glen Burse (bone cancer in left shin)
- ⇒ James Jenkins (Whitney Price Jenkins' father-in-law)
- ⇒ 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.

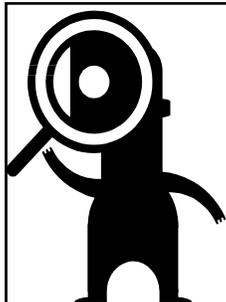


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Second, the Bible teaches that single individuals have a definite advantage when it comes to Christian service. Because they do not have a spouse, they are able to care completely for the things that belong to the Lord. Paul discussed this with the church at Corinth in his chapter on marriage. "...He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. There is a difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband" (I Cor. 7:32-34). A single person can devote more time and energy to the cause of Christ than married individuals can. A tie to a husband or wife involves a person in extracurricular things that may not be pertinent to the work of God. Again, this lesson is not one that is appreciated by most singles. Their wants and wishes often seem more important than the freedom to be fully engaged in the labors within Christ's vineyard. If those who are single could get addicted to the ministry, some of their issues would vanish.

Third, the Bible exhorts all of us to learn contentment. Paul learned it. In Philippians 4:11, he writes: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." One of the definitions of contentment is "independent of external circumstances" (esword, Thayer). Thayer also gives another definition of contentment, "strong enough or processing enough to need no aid or support." This is not how most singles deal with their lot in life. They believe they need more. They are not satisfied. They feel they need aid and support. To discuss contentment often throws water on their fire. They feel that those who so teach just do not understand their problems. Yet, the one who taught contentment, the apostle Paul, was a single man (I Cor. 7:8). Paul knew he was complete in Christ. He knew that a wife could add a "burden" to his ministry. Thus, he was content being a single man.

Those who are single fall into a very unique category. Our hearts go out to those who struggle and remain steadfast to the Lord. One more point that they need to seriously consider is prayer. Their heavenly Father longs for them to cast their cares upon Him (I Pet. 5:7). He desires to hear their prayers (Phil. 4:6-7). He is able and willing to fulfill their requests (I John 5:14-15). Thus, all singles need to develop a fervent prayer life (James 5:16). We exhort you to let your requests be made known unto God over and over again. He may very well open His storehouse of blessings and grant you your fervent petitions. It can happen when least expected. Pray, my single friend, pray!



Bible question: According to Proverbs, what does it take for the wicked to sleep well?

Last week's answer: Dove and Pigeon (Gen 15:9)

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