

# THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

**August 02, 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

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

Bradley Smith



## **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:**  
Kevin Smith

**Lead Singing:**  
Wesley Tucker

**Opening Prayer:**  
Richard Price

**Scripture Reading:**  
Kyle Hobbs

**Lord's Table**  
Richard Price  
Gerald Rule  
Richard Jones  
Hyland Darnell

**Closing Prayer:**  
Chris Smith

**Greeters (East)**  
Bill and Maria

**Greeters (West)**  
Kevin and Tammy

### **LESSONS**

**AM:** A Day of  
Christian Infamy  
**Scripture reading:**  
Genesis 19:1-7

**PM:** The Price of  
Our Sins  
**Scripture reading:**  
Philippians 2:5-8

## TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE *by: Rickie Jenkins*

Pilate's question of Jesus, "What is truth?" is the norm of today in our society. We live in a relativistic world. "No" sometimes means "No," maybe, possibly, but not certainly. "Yes" may mean "Yes, perhaps, unless I mean no." And, we certainly do not know what the meaning of "Is" is. Therefore, truth is what we believe the truth is. May I ask, "Are we, as human beings, really that dumb?" Do we really not know what "yes" and "no" mean? Are we really confused over right and wrong? Is truth really relative? We know better. Our problem ascertaining whether truth is absolute or relative is not intellectual but moral. We, as people, do not like to be told there are some things that are absolutely right and wrong. Why? Because we want to do what we want to do. We don't want anyone telling us what we can or cannot do. God forbid that we should point out sin. If there really is such a thing as sin, then there really is such a thing as an absolute right and wrong, which means there is such a thing as an absolute standard: truth.

The problem of understanding absolute truth is not new to our day. Isaiah spoke of the same thing. "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20). Why did the people of Isaiah's day confuse right and wrong? "Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!" (Isa. 5:21). That is the problem today as well. The problem is not "is truth absolute," but whether we in our eyes see it as absolute. In our pride, we want to do other than what God commands, therefore, truth becomes relative. We allow our pride to determine what is right and wrong, not God.

In order to correct this problem we need to understand truth is the standard by which all knowledge is ascertained whether it be in the field of law, science, medicine, or religion. Truth is the standard. When we go to the store to buy a pound of meat, we are confident it has been correctly weighed. What gives us that confidence? A standard of weights and measures: truth. We recognize the importance of truth in every area of our lives until it comes to religion.

Once we recognize truth as the standard for all knowledge, we must admit that absolute truth must have a source. Truth is absolute because it comes from a Sovereign God. Sovereign means above or superior to all others, chief, greatest, supreme. We can't get any higher on the scale of government than God. When we say God is sovereign, we include the idea that His authority is inherent because of who He is and what He has done. It is His by right of creation. That is what makes the Gentiles behavior so sad. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.... (Rom. 1:25). They exchanged the sovereign God and His authority for their own standard. What did they do? They committed the vilest acts known to man (Rom. 1:26-32). Do you see why

admitting truth to be absolute is a moral problem not an intellectual problem? They did what they wanted to do, but they could not do that and admit there is truth. Why? To admit there is truth is an admission there is a God, and by right of creation He has the right to tell me what to do. We cannot get more fundamental than thinking truth is absolute because it comes from a Sovereign God. Once we understand God is Creator that says something about His power, wisdom, greatness, excellence, kindness and majesty. Who am I? Nobody! What can I do against Him? Nothing! Who shall I go to for counsel? No one. But, look, He holds our very lives in His hand. He has the right to rule our lives. He gives absolute truth (Rom. 11:34-36). Truth is woven into the fabric of our universe. It is ordained and sustained by God. We can disregard truth, but we cannot destroy it; it is indestructible. When men change the image of an incorruptible God into the form of man we have a god we make in our image, that fits what we want to do. If our god is one we can carry in our pocket, then we are never wrong, are we? Truth is what we make it.

Furthermore, our Sovereign God has not left us to wonder what truth really is. He has revealed what He wants for us to please Him. Truth has been made known to man. However, it takes a special kind of heart to see that truth is absolute. Not everyone will because not everyone wants to. Not only do we owe God a debt of gratitude and service, we must listen to Him. His word is truth (Jhn. 17:17). Scripture contains truth that God breathed (2Tim.3:16-17). Each word is from the mind of God (1 Cor. 2:11-13). No man could have imagined the truth God revealed. Only our Sovereign God could have produced truth because He is truth (Jhn. 14:6). He produced the truth in such a manner that man can know the truth (Jhn. 7:17). It is able to set him free (Jhn. 8:32). Our problem is, "We have lied to ourselves, that we know the truth, until we have crippled our hope of learning the truth. Or, we have convinced ourselves (another lie) that there is no certain truth, so that even faith becomes a leap in the dark, an essential to avoid despair, or maybe truth (?) is treated subjectively, every man to himself. We know that truth in the material universe is not so vacillating:  $2+2 = 4$  to all men; God is different" (Plain Talk 16:3: May 1979). Finally, truth, by its very nature is singular. Truth is intolerant and exclusive. It is not subject to arbitration nor subjective appraisals. That which is truth is real and genuine. The truth is not some philosophical extraction which is reached by the reasoning of the human mind. Truth is not relative to time, change or feeling. Truth is without exception or exemption. It is not subject to recounts, no hanging or pregnant chads. It is not subject to a Presidential veto, congressional approval or a ruling by the Supreme Court. It is the standard by which all else is measured. It is objective. God has revealed truth. Our challenge is to search and find it.

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- ⇒ Gerald and Shirley (3rd)
- ⇒ Joe and Rhonda (3rd)
- ⇒ Norma Darnell (5th)
- ⇒ Peggy Bazzell (6th)
- ⇒ Bill and Maria (6th)

## **Announcements**

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Philippians and Colossians
- ⇒ **Team: 1** 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!
- ⇒ **Workday:** August 29
- ⇒ **Potluck:** For 5th Sunday on August 30 after AM worship.
- ⇒ **Visit:** As a congregation we will visit Union Grove on 8-30
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Chili

## **Prayer/Sick List**

- ⇒ Clemmie Black (At Spring Creek room # 420 B in station 4)
- ⇒ 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)
- ⇒ 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](http://www.coldwatercoc.org).  
You will find bulletins,  
sermon outlines, and  
other helpful links and  
material.



## MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Php 1:1-2 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: (2) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

**Word:** episkopos (ἐπίσκοπος)

**Pronounced:** ep-is'-kop-os

**Translated** into the word we use today: **Bishop, Overseer**

**Meaning:** according to Strong is: a superintendent, that is, Christian officer in general charge of (or the) church (literally or figuratively): - bishop, overseer. Thayer adds: an overseer 1a) a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, any curator, guardian or superintendent, 1b) the superintendent, elder, or overseer of a Christian church

**Supporting verse:** Act 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Often when we think of a bishop, overseer, or elder we don't think of a pastor. But as we will see they are all one and the same. The denominational world has set someone that is a preacher to be their pastor, but this is not the case. A preacher is one who preaches the word, and a pastor is one who is shepherd to the flock, like an overseer or elder. In Ephesians 4:11, we see "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers," Notice there is a difference between evangelist and teacher, or those who would preach the word and pastor. The word pastor, according to strong and Thayer, means SHEPHERD. The same thing that elders are to do (Acts 20:28), which is the same as a bishop. You see, a bishop, overseer, shepherd, and pastor are all the same role in the church. Now notice in 1 Timothy 3 that there is a list of qualifications for this role. It must be a man, and he must be married and have faithful children among others. We can start to clearly see that this is a different role than a preacher. There are not such qualifications given for a preacher, except it be a man. A preacher can be unmarried, like Paul, and still fulfil the role. So we should think before we call our "preacher" a "pastor". A preacher can be a pastor if he meets all qualifications listed in God's Word.



**Bible question:** What was the name of the foreign god that many Israelites had sacrificed their children to by making them pass through fire?

**Last week's question and answer:** What Pharisee came to Jesus at night?

**Answer:** Nicodemus (John 3:1-2)

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