

# THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

**August 03, 2014**

## **Coldwater church of Christ**

8467 State Route 121 N  
Murray, KY 42071

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www.coldwaterchurch  
ofchrist.org

coldwatercoc@wk.net

### **ELDERS**

Richard Price  
Kevin Smith  
Bill Vincent

### **DEACONS**

Bob Austin  
Johnny Downs  
Josh Fulcher

### **PREACHER**

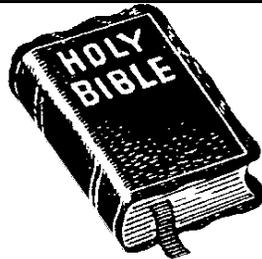
Luke Puckett

### **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:**

Bill Vincent

### **Lead Singing:**

Mitchell Smith

### **Opening Prayer:**

Richard Price

### **Scripture Reading:**

Gerald Rule

### **Lord's Table**

Richard Price  
Ray Stembridge  
Gerald Rule  
Mitchell Smith

### **Closing Prayer:**

David Dodd

### **Greeters (East)**

Helen and Peggy N

### **Greeters (West)**

Bob and Susanna

## **WELCOME**

Adam Evans  
and family

# JUSTIFICATION BY RATIONALIZATION

*By: Dennis Gullede*

One of the most fascinating books that I have ever read is, *The Irresponsibles or Righteousness through Rationalization*, by James D. Bales. The book was published in 1979. In the introduction Bales cited Genesis 3:12-13 and said, "Since that time people have sought in one way or another to avoid responsibility for the wrong things which they have done, are doing, or want to do. To refuse to acknowledge the truth about one's self, and to seek to justify one's self regardless of whether or not what one has done is justifiable, is one of the fundamental and far-reaching errors which plague mankind" (p. 7). In 2005 I developed a series of sermons along this line directed especially to our young people.

We live in the age of the alibi. The consciousness of sin is almost unheard of these days. There seems to be a reason, or rationalization, for any and every action. It is the tendency of almost everybody to interpret their own actions in a good light. Any sin can be rationalized away. One can always settle on the excuse, "I wasn't myself," or, the ever popular "lapse in judgment." Any glaring display of in-decency can be credited to a "wardrobe malfunction."

Rationalization is a defense mechanism as old as the fall of man. It is the practice of justifying conduct by offering plausible excuses to convince others that one's behavior is not as absurd, or as wrong, as it actually is. It is the reason that sounds good, but does not really explain one's action(s). When the voice of the Almighty God called Adam to account for his sin of eating that which he was expressly commanded not to eat, he said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat" (Gen. 3:12). As in Adam's case there are real reasons that explain our actions, and there are the reasons that we give. The real reason(s) may be too painful to our pride to want to admit. Therefore, a person often chooses to escape the pain of the real reason(s) for his actions by offering up pseudo-reasons that protect one's pride, and prevents the pain of having to face the truth.

In the human practice of escaping responsibility persons refuse to admit some unpleasant truth about themselves. We typically arrive at a transformation in our thinking that is either full or partial with regard to sin and our own responsibility there-to. In the partial transformation a person is stable enough to admit that sin is sin, but not that he/she has sinned in committing a particular sinful act. That is, such a person has not yet reached the point of calling evil good and good evil (Isa. 5:20-21), but his/her conscience is fully approving and excusing themselves so that they do not bear much, if any, personal responsibility for their actions. The blame game is a perfect example of this type of rationalization (Gen. 3:12-13; Exo. 32:22-24; 1 Sam. 15:12-15). Again, there are those who approach a full transformation in their own thinking about personal responsibility toward sin. This person is able to convince himself that evil that he wants to do is actually good, and that he is to be commended for doing it. He is equally convinced that the good that he does not want to do is evil, and his conscience does not afflict him when he chooses to leave it undone. This is the apex of the human rationalization process. As the prophet said, "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. 5:20-21).

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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

## **Announcements**

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** 1st & 2nd Peter
- ⇒ **Team 1** 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!
- ⇒ **New Directory:** Information forms are on the back tables. Please take one and fill it out, and turn in to Luke or Amber. Also, picture sign up for directory is on the board.
- ⇒ **Workday:** on August 30 at 8:00 am
- ⇒ **Visit:** As a congregation we will visit Union Grove on 8-31
- ⇒ **Potluck:** After am service on 8-31
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Dish Detergent

## **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
- ⇒ Tonya Jones
- ⇒ 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](http://www.coldwaterchurchofchrist.org). You will find  
bulletins, sermon outlines,  
and other helpful links  
and material.

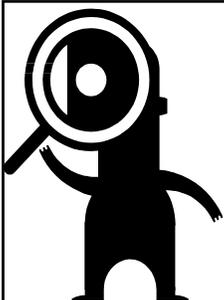


# WELCOME

We are pleased to have Adam Evans with us today. We currently support Adam and the wonderful work he and his family are doing in Iringa Tanzania, East Africa. Adam is joined in this work by his wife Magan and their 3 daughters, Ema, Mary Kate, and Lilly. They are supported and under the oversight of the West End church of Christ in St. Peters, Missouri. If you have any questions or would like to help this work in any way, please see Adam, and he will be glad to tell you about this work. You can also visit [www.missiontanzania.net](http://www.missiontanzania.net) for more information.



As we know, today will be the last Sunday that Bob and Susanna Austin will be here before their move to Florida. We want to thank them for their service to the Lord here at Coldwater and wish them the best as they start a new one. Bob and Susanna, we love you and wish you all the best.



Bible question: According to Psalms, what trees are broken by God's powerful voice?

Last week's answer: Agabus (Acts 11:28)

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