

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

August 24, 2014

Coldwater church of Christ

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ELDERS

Richard Price
Kevin Smith
Bill Vincent

DEACONS

Johnny Downs
Josh Fulcher

PREACHER

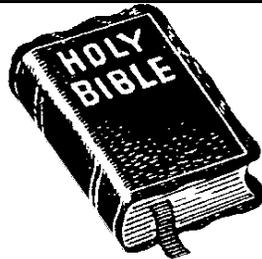
Luke Puckett

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:

David Dodd

Scripture Reading:

Kevin Smith

Lord's Table

Richard Price
Mitchell Smith
Gerald Rule
Ray Stenbridge

Closing Prayer:

Gerald Rule

Greeters (East)

Reagan and Elizabeth

Greeters (West)

Josh and Jennifer

Guest Speaker

John Sales—AM

Josh Fulcher—PM

DIMINISHING CONVICTIONS ABOUT WORLDLY ENTERTAINMENT

By: B.J. Clarke

People have always enjoyed being entertained by plays, books, movies, music, radio and television. There is nothing wrong with an exciting plot, tender love story, or funny bit, as long as these things are presented in a wholesome fashion. On the other hand, there is something wrong with the ungodly entertainment that is so prevalent in our world today. A number of years ago, The Statler Brothers released a song entitled, "Whatever Happened to Randolph Scott?" The song lamented the increase of objectionable material in motion pictures over the years. Gasps of horror erupted when Clark Gable uttered a curse word in the film *Gone With The Wind*, but that was only a foretaste of the outrageous language and behavior to be depicted on screen in years to come. While "surfing the net" the other day I visited the website at www.screenit.com to gather a glimpse of what kind of material is present in films today. This website gives a preview of all of the current movies showing at the cinema, as well as hundreds of previously released films which are now in video format. It will tell you how many curse words are in a particular film. It will give a rundown of any occurrences of nudity or sexual innuendo. If you want to see just how far the movie industry has spiraled downward into immorality, just visit this site for a few minutes. Parents, please visit this website before you give your children blanket permission to go to the movies! Find out what the film is about and ask yourself whether these are the kinds of values that you want your children's minds to be feasting upon. It is amazing to watch parents allow their children to attend movies that are filled with pornographic images of fornication and adultery, and then watch these same parents shake their heads in bewilderment when their child is found to be involved in sexual immorality. Remember, "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (**Prov. 23:7**).

Today, millions of Americans attend movies and never even blush as they watch films that are full of profanity and every kind of sexual immorality. **Jeremiah 6:15** is an all too accurate assessment of the attitude of most Americans today. The passage asks, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush." Sadly, among those who flock to see such entertainment are some who wear the name "Christian." We must remember that the very name "Christian" carries with it the idea of **belonging to Christ**. As those who belong to Christ, we have an obligation to "follow his steps" (**1 Peter 2:21**) and "walk, even as he walked" (**1 John 2:6**). Would we take Jesus with us to see the movies we normally see? Jesus may not be with us in the flesh when we go to the movies, but you better believe He knows where we are go and what we watch (**Heb. 4:13**).

The same questions should be asked regarding the kind of entertainment we enjoy in our own **homes**. Imagine Jesus dropping by your home for a surprise visit. Would you scramble for the remote control to try and change the channel before Jesus could see what you had been watching on **television**? With the advent of cable and satellite television there are more and more stations providing more and more opportunities to watch more and more smut. Would you hide the **books and magazines** that you are accustomed to reading or would you feel comfortable offering those materials to Jesus as recommended reading? If Jesus were riding along in the car with us, would we listen to the same songs on the radio or CD player that we normally listen to?

Incidentally, parents need to be just as diligent in knowing what kind of **music** their children listen to. Moreover, the **music videos** on stations such as MTV, VH1, and CMT need to be monitored carefully because many are filled with sexually suggestive images and lyrics. As parents, we must be consistent. Children will see through our hypocrisy if we monitor their music but fail to monitor our own. Similarly, if we prohibit our children from listening to music or watching movies that depict fornication or adultery on screen and then turn around and read **romance novels** graphically describing fornication in print, then we are hypocritical. It should be remembered that the word "pornography" is a combination of two Greek words: porneia (sexual immorality) and grapho (to write or depict). Thus, writings of sexual immorality are just as sinful as pictures of sexual immorality!

Space limitations forbid us from examining each and every form of entertainment that poses a threat to the Christian. As Christians, we will have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather will expose them (Eph 5:11). As those who have named the name of Christ, we will "depart from iniquity" (2 Tim 2:19). In short, we will put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof (Rom 13:14). We will not love the world, or the things in the world because we love the Father and desire to abide in Him forever (1 John 2:15-17). —Adapted

Birthdays & Anniversaries

⇒ Kayla Stembridge (28th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** 1st & 2nd Peter
- ⇒ **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!
- ⇒ **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:** Postponed to a later day in September
- ⇒ **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: Pancake mix

Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Tammy Smith (having tests run)
- ⇒ Tonya Jones
- ⇒ Sharon Bundy (having test run)
- ⇒ Glen Burse
- ⇒ James Jenkins (Whitney Price Jenkins' father-in-law)
- ⇒ Remember the family of Ruby Arnett who passed away last Thursday
- ⇒ 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.coldwaterchurchof
christ.org](http://www.coldwaterchurchofchrist.org). You will find
bulletins, sermon outlines,
and other helpful links
and material.



DO YOU HAVE FULL ASSURANCE

By: *Jonnie Hutchison*

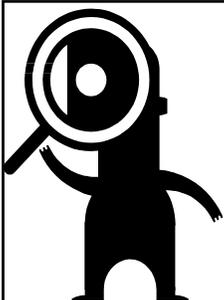
“The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places” (Isa. 32:17-18). Most believe that these words contain a prophecy of the Messianic age—the age in which you and I now live. They speak of the characteristics of righteousness, peace, quietness and assurance.

What is “the work of righteousness” which results in peace? Notice that the word “work” is singular. It is “**the work** of righteousness” not **works** of righteousness. Would this not refer to the work of Christ in providing the means for man’s forgiveness and justification before God? “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things un-to himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” (Colossians 1:20). To have peace with God one must receive the forgiveness of sin through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Sin separates one from God (Isaiah 59:1-2) but through the cleansing of sin by the blood of Christ one may be reconciled to God and thus enjoy “the peace of God that passeth all understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

Of course, there is the response that one must make to what Christ has done in providing the means of salvation. No person may reach the blood of Christ and receive the benefits of its cleansing power except through his/her submission to what God has commanded for salvation. When the apostle Peter preached Christ at the house of Cornelius he declared, “...in truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and **works righteousness** is accepted by Him” (Acts 10:34-35). Cornelius and those with him “worked righteousness” by obeying the instructions give to them for salvation—”And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...” (Acts 10:48).

Notice that in the prophecy the effect of righteousness, that is having received the benefits of “the work of righteousness,” is both “quietness and assurance forever.” The Hebrew word translated “quietness” is the idea of being “still” or “at rest.” The word translated as “assurance” may refer to a place of safety and security or a sense of trust which produces confidence. In other words, one who is at peace with God can rest in the assurance of his salvation because of the work of Christ on his behalf. The inspired writer of Hebrews put it in these words: “Let us draw near with a true heart in **full assurance** of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful who promised)” (Hebrews 10:22-23). Full assurance of faith comes both as a result of what the Lord has done for us coupled with our holding fast the profession of our faith without wavering. This speaks to the necessity of continued loving obedience to God in living ones life in dedicated service. Every person may spiritually enjoy “a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places,” even in the midst of the chaos and confusion of this world, by accepting the salvation provided through the shed blood of Christ. For one who chooses to serve the Lord faithfully in this life the quiet assurance provided through “the work of righteousness” is not temporary, but as the prophet declares, is “forever.”

Do YOU have FULL ASSUR-ANCE? We urge you to examine yourself and submit yourself to the will of God and enjoy the “full assurance of faith.” Contact us today for more information.



Bible question: What man was seduced by his daughters while drunk?

Last week's answer: Pistachio and Almonds (Genesis 43:11)

Those answering: Kay Robertson, Linda Jones, Peggy Newsome, Clemmie Black, Helen Tidwell, Johnny and Mae Downs, Rachel Adams