

# THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

*"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..."* (Jude 3)  
**September 25, 2016**

## **Coldwater church of Christ**

8467 State Route 121 N  
Murray, KY 42071

(270) 489-2219

www.coldwatercoc.org

coldwatercoc@wk.net



### **ELDERS**

Richard Price  
Kevin Smith  
Bill Vincent

### **DEACONS**

Johnny Downs  
Josh Fulcher  
Josh Price  
Wesley Tucker

### **PREACHER**

Luke Puckett

### **SUNDAY SERVICE**

Bible Class: 9:30  
AM Worship: 10:15  
PM Worship: 1:00

### **WEDNESDAY**

Bible Class: 7:00pm

### **LADIES CLASS**

Tuesday: 10:00am

## **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:**

Josh Fulcher

### **Lead Singing:**

Kevin Smith

### **Opening Prayer:**

Chris Smith

### **Scripture Reading:**

Bill Vincent

### **Lord's Table**

Richard Jones  
Chris Smith  
Nathia Whitley  
Kevin Smith

### **Closing Prayer:**

Gerald Rule

### **Greeters (East)**

Ron and Joanne

### **Greeters (West)**

Helen and Peggy B

### **LESSONS**

**AM:** There Are Great  
Mansions

### **Scripture reading:**

John 14:1-6

**PM:** Whole Church  
Comes Together for  
Worship

### **Scripture reading:**

1Corinthians 14:23-35

# JUSTIFICATION BY RATIONALIZATION

*By: Dennis Gulledge*

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 indecency 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 thereto. 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)

—Mabelvale Church of Christ, AR

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Judges
- ⇒ **Team workgroup:** Team 4 meets today
- ⇒ **Area events:** Please see bulletin board for more info. Several meetings, singings, and Bible schools are coming up in our area.
- ⇒ **New Personal invitation handouts** are available . Please make sure to take some and handout or leave with a tip, and invite someone to our service!
- ⇒ **Monthly Men's Class:** Tuesday, Oct 4th at 6:30pm here at the building.
- ⇒ **Ladies Class:** Has started back up, every Tuesday at 10am
- ⇒ **Visit:** We will visit Antioch tonight at 6:00
- ⇒ **50th Anniversary:** For Johnny and Mae, after pm service.
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Spaghetti

### Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Johnny Downs
- ⇒ Linda Jones (recovering from surgery)
- ⇒ Hyland Darnell
- ⇒ Norma Darnell
- ⇒ Gerald Rule
- ⇒ Shirley Rule
- ⇒ Phyllis Furgerson (recovering from knee replacement)
- ⇒ Vicki Wilson (having test run)
- ⇒ Virgil Hale
- ⇒ Kim Scott (Has cancer, she has started treatments)
- ⇒ Paul Brandon (Hazel's brother in-law)
- ⇒ 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)
- ⇒ Billy Irvan
- ⇒ Gary Fulcher (Josh's dad)
- ⇒ Debbie Edwards
- ⇒ Trudy Smith
- ⇒ James McAbee
- ⇒ Derek Adams (Richard Adams' grandson, has leukemia)
- ⇒ Lashell Jones
- ⇒ Michael Inman (Tonya Jones' stepdad)
- ⇒ Caleb Teasly (Kevin's cousin's son, 4 years old)
- ⇒ Bob Austin (having tests run for issues with his lungs)
- ⇒ Romona White (Mitchell's roommate mother has cancer)
- ⇒ 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

Judges 10:15 And the children of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray."

## GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

**Word:** hamartanō (ἁμαρτάνω)

**Pronounced:** ham-ar-tan'-o

**Translated** into the word we use today: **SINNED— SIN**

**Meaning:** according to Strong is: Perhaps from G1 (as a negative particle) and the base of G3313; properly to miss the mark (and so not share in the prize), that is, (figuratively) to err, especially (morally) to sin: - for your faults, offend, sin, trespass.

**Supporting verse:** Luke 15:18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

When we look at Judges 10:15, we see the Israelites confessing to God that “We have sinned”. This word sin means to miss the mark, that is, God has given us a target to hit and even though we might have been aiming for it, we missed it. We did not do God’s will; we either came up short or did more than we are commanded to do. Just like God’s people of old, the Israelites, we today as Christians sometimes miss the mark, or sin. If we do this, then we have to come back to God, confessing our transgressions. Just like Israel did, we, too, must say “I have sinned”. We notice in Acts 8 that Simon had sinned and was told that he “would perish with his money”. Then he was told to “Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.” We also see in 1 John that “if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” If we, as God’s once faithful children, sin and turn from God, then we must repent. That is, turn from that sin and then ask God for His forgiveness.



**Bible question:** What wicked king who dabbled in sorcery offered his son in the fire?

**Last week’s question and answer:** Who wrote a letter to Felix concerning Paul?  
**Answer:** Claudius Lysias—(Acts 23:25-26)

**Those answering:** Kay Robertson, Linda Jones, Peggy Newsome, Rachel Adams, Johnny and Mae Downs