

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

November 22, 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

LADIES CLASS

Tuesday 10:00am

Welcome

Adam, Magan, Ema, Mary Kate,
and Lilly Evans. We are honored to
have you with us today. The Evans
family is currently doing mission
work in Tanzania Africa.



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:

Josh Fulcher

Scripture Reading:

David Dodd

Lord's Table

Richard Price
Gerald Rule
Mitchell Smith
Kyle Hobbs

Closing Prayer:

Gerald Rule

Greeters (East)

Amber and Boys

Greeters (West)

Kristin and Elizabeth

LESSONS

Guest Speaker:

Adam Evans

DIVINE AUTHORITY *By: Victor M. Eskew*

“Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: the length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, and second, and third stories shalt thou make it” (Gen. 6:14-16). These words are familiar to children and adults alike who enjoy the stories of the Bible. They were spoken by God to the great patriarch Noah. God warned Noah of a coming flood. God had seen Noah’s faithfulness and gave him instructions, which, if followed, would preserve him and his family. Once these instructions were given, Noah had a choice to make. Would he follow the divine injunctions, or, would he refuse to obey? Genesis 6:22 reveals Noah’s decision. “Thus did Noah according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” Noah had respect for the divine authority of God’s Word. He did not rebel against what God said. He did not try to change what God said. He did not add to God’s words, and, He did not subtract from God’s words. With faith, he submitted to the instructions God provided. In Hebrews 11, Noah is listed among the examples of the faithful. “By faith, Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became the heir of righteousness which is by faith” (Heb. 11:7). Throughout history, God has revealed His will to humanity. At this time, His will is found in the New Testament of Jesus Christ. The Hebrew writer said that God “hath in these last days spoke unto us by his Son...” (Heb. 1:2). The New Testament is the divine standard today. If Noah were alive today he would hear these words and submit to them. Remember, God’s authority was important in the life of this patriarch of old. Divine authority should be respected by all. Man, however, has always struggled with obedience to God. It started in the Garden of Eden. God commanded Adam and Eve, saying: “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it...” (Gen. 2:17). The newly created couple, however, choose to violate God’s Word and brought about the fall of man. “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat” (Gen. 3:6). King Saul was another who had a problem with divine authority. Two times he rebelled against the divine instructions of a prophet of God. One of these times is interesting because his disobedience involved partial obedience to God’s word. Samuel’s instructions to the king were simple and straightforward. “Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both men and women, infant and suckling ox and sheep, camel, and ass” (I Sam. 15:3). I Samuel 15:7 begins to tell us about

Saul’s response to God’s command. “And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.” If this were all that we were told, we would think that King Saul was obedient to God. The next two verses, however, reveal that such was not the case. “And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but everything that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly” (I Sam. 15:8-9). Saul did not obey the Lord in all things. In his mind, though, he was convinced that he had obeyed. When he saw Samuel after the battle, he said: “Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord” (I Sam. 15:13). Even when confronted about his disobedience, he argued that he had obeyed God’s will (I Sam. 15:14-20, esp. v. 20). We live in an age wherein divine authority is not respected and appreciated. Some will see the title of this article and will immediately set it aside. Others will briefly scan its contents and will brush it off as irrelevant to modern society. Only a few will read it with deep appreciation. As members of the body of Christ, we should fall into the latter category. We should be extremely concerned about divine authority. Dear reader, if we are following in the footsteps of Jesus, we will have respect for divine authority. When Jesus came to this earth He desired to do one thing, to do the will of His heavenly Father. Numerous passages reveal Jesus’ desire to us. “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work” (John 4:34). “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just: because I seek not mine own will but the will of him that sent me” (John 5:30). “For I came down from heaven not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 6:38). “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak” (John 12:49). Yes, the only desire that Jesus had was to do His Father’s will. Even in His death, Jesus submitted to the divine authority of His heavenly Father” (Matt. 26:39). Divine authority is not desired by some because it governs their lives. They do not want to be told what they can do and what they cannot do. They do not realize that divine authority is the only thing that lifts man to a higher standard of living. It is the only thing that protects man from himself. It is the only thing that will allow man to enter into the hereafter in a saved condition. Those who understand these things make passages such as Colossians 3:17 their motto: “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Harold and Helen (24th)
- ⇒ Helen Darnell (25th)
- ⇒ Richard and Tonya (26th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Zechariah
- ⇒ **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!
- ⇒ **Ladies Bible class:** Has started back on Tuesdays at 10am
- ⇒ **Monthly Men's Class:** Will be held on Tuesday Dec 01 at 6:30pm here at the building.
- ⇒ **Thanksgiving Potluck:** After AM service today.
- ⇒ **5th Sunday Potluck and singing:** Nov 29th
- ⇒ **Visit:** We will visit Dexter as a congregation on Nov 29. They start at 5:00pm
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Mustard

Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Tonya Jones
- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Johnny Downs
- ⇒ Hyland Darnell (had knee replacement surgery on the 28th)
- ⇒ Norma Darnell (Has found out she has Parkinson's disease)
- ⇒ Shirley Rule (Continuing to improve)
- ⇒ Jonnie Hutchison (Amber's father is having eye trouble)
- ⇒ 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 (Rachel was placed in a nursing home)
- ⇒ Lashell Jones
- ⇒ Michael Inman (Tonya Jones' stepdad)
- ⇒ Maria's sister-continuing to recover from heart surgery.
- ⇒ Mary Wallace (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.
You will find bulletins,
sermon outlines, and
other helpful links and
material.



MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Zechariah 8:16-17 These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace; (17) Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,' Says the LORD."

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: horkos (ὄρκος)

Pronounced: hor'-kos, her'-kos

Translated into the word we use today: **Oath**

Meaning: according to Strong is: a *limit*, that is, (sacred) *restraint* (specifically *oath*): - oath. Thayer adds, 1) that which has been pledged or promised with an oath

Supporting verse: Matthew 26:72 But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

In Zechariah 8:17, we are told "do not love a false oath." In times of old, there were false prophets who would spread lies. Some even wanted to say that the Israelites would only be in captivity for 2 years. These false prophets would promise this was the truth. The people would then believe it because it sounded good to them. God tells us not to love that which is false, even if people "swear" it to be true. If it contradicts God's word, then it is a false oath, and we should not love it. Many people want to believe and love these false oaths. In Isaiah 30:10 "Who say to the seer, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, Prophecy deceits." They wanted to love false oaths. In 2Timothy 4:3-4, we read basically the same thing. Not much has changed for us today. People still love false oaths. They want to be told that the way they are living is okay, even though it is against God and His word. They want to feel secure in the sins they are in. So they seek out false teachers to tell the false oaths, to promise to them that they are okay the way they are. Friends, we must not ever do this or seek this out. We must not love false oaths, but rather reject them.



Bible question: What soldier, David's oldest brother, was angry with David for coming to the battle lines?

Last week's question and answer: In what two books is the following statement found "Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground"?

Answer: Exodus 3:5 and Joshua 5:15 (also Acts 7:33 in reference to Moses)

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