

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

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

November 23, 2014

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
Wesley Tucker

PREACHER

Luke Puckett

SUNDAY SERVICE

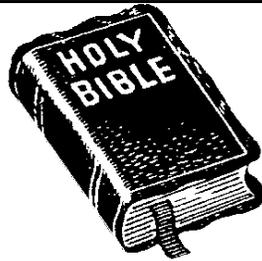
Bible Class: 9:30
AM Worship: 10:15
PM Worship: 1:00

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class: 7:00pm

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays: 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:

Richard Price

Lead Singing:

Mitchell Smith

Opening Prayer:

Josh Fulcher

Scripture Reading:

Bradley Smith

Lord's Table

Josh Fulcher
Chris Smith
David Dodd
Hyland Darnell

Closing Prayer:

Hyland Darnell

Greeters (East)

Johnny and Mae

Greeters (West)

Andy and Maddie

LESSONS

AM: Worship
By: Luke Puckett
Scripture reading:
John 4:19-26

PM: Mercy For The
Merciful

By: Luke Puckett
Scripture reading:
1Peter 2:1-10

Are Church Choirs and Solos Scriptural? By: Larry Powers

Many are using choirs and solos in their attempts to worship God. Are choirs and solos authorized by God as a part of Christian worship? To find the answer to this question, we must turn to the Bible. The Bible is God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16,17; John 12:48; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Peter 1:3; Jude 3). Man does not have the right to add to, nor to take away from, the teachings of the Word of God (Revelation 22:18,19; Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6). The New Testament portion of God's Word is the standard of authority for what we do in the work and worship of God today (Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 8:6-13).

In His Word, God has authorized five acts of worship for His church. These five acts are: singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), giving (1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7), prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Timothy 2:8), eating the Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 20:7), and the preaching of the Word of God (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 2 Timothy 4:1-4). These acts of worship are authorized by direct statements, commands, implications, and approved examples.

Singing in worship is commanded by God. The New Testament contains many examples of Christians singing in worship to God (Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:18,19; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13). These passages describe the kind of music God has authorized so that His people can worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The kind of music God authorized is singing. This singing is congregational singing. It is done by every Christian in the assembly! It must be done with understanding. The purpose of the singing is for Christians to glorify God and to teach and admonish one another.

Does the New Testament Teach Congregational Singing?

Does Ephesians 5:19 teach congregational singing? The word in the original Greek language in which the New Testament was written, which is translated as "speaking," means "to utter speech, to convey speech, to use the tongue or faculty of speech, to utter articulate sounds, to talk, to tell, to use words to declare one's mind and thoughts." The New Testament word translated "yourselves" is a "reflexive" pronoun of the third person. It shows that the person who acts and the person who receives the action is the same. In other words, while one is speaking to others in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, others are also speaking to him in the same way. This is a clear reference to congregational singing where all mutually teach one another as they unite their voices in song. To obey this command, there must be an interchange of action. When one group or person is active (a choir or soloist) and another group is passive (the listening audience), there is no interchange of action. Ephesians 5:19 can not be obeyed by choirs or solos!

Does Colossians 3:16 teach congregational singing? The New Testament word, which is translated "teaching," means "to teach, instruct, by word of mouth." It requires that the one who is taught understand the teaching given. The New Testament word translated "admonishing" means "to put into the mind, instruct, warn." This teaching and admonishing is to be done to "one another." The phrase "one another" is translated from the same New Testament word as "yourselves" in Ephesians 5:19.

Therefore, when the church is worshipping God by the act of singing, there is teaching and admonishing one another taking place. Colossians 3:16 clearly teaches congregational singing! When one group or individual (the choir or soloist) is active, and another group is passive (the listening audience), there is no interchange of teaching and admonishing!

Congregational singing (singing by every member of the congregation) was the practice of the church in the first century. But many today claim that choirs and solos in the worship are permitted because the Bible is silent concerning them. When God commanded Christians to sing and admonish one another, that eliminated choirs and solos in worship. It was not necessary for God to give a long list of "Thou shalt nots" concerning singing. It was not necessary for God to say, "Thou shalt not use mechanical instruments of music in My worship." It was not necessary for God to say, "Thou shalt not use choirs or solos in my worship." When God specified congregational singing, that eliminated choirs, solos, and instrumental music.

Choirs, solos and mechanical instruments of music in New Testament worship were never commanded by the Lord! No apostle of Christ ever approved of choirs, solos or instrumental music in the worship to God! No inspired New Testament writer ever taught or approved of them. There is no command, implication or approved example of the use of choirs, solos or instrumental music in New Testament worship. Thus, they are completely without the authority of the Lord! To use them in worship is sinful (Matthew 15:8,9-12; John 9:11; Revelation 22:18, 19).

Must Worship Be Entertaining?

Must worship be entertaining? Many seem to think so. Every Christian must realize that God has commanded him to worship in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). This means that every Christian must worship with the correct attitude and the correct actions. God is the One Who is being worshipped. He is the audience. Therefore, He is the One Who must be pleased!

1 Corinthians 14:26

Some try to defend the use of choirs and solos by saying that 1 Corinthians 14:26 teaches such. A close look at the verse will reveal that it does not teach the use of either choirs or solos. To say that "every one of you hath a psalm" does not mean that every one sang a solo or that several sang solos. A psalm can be read, or quoted. In this context, Paul is dealing with the misuse of a spiritual gift. The best explanation of what the verse means is Acts 4:23-30. When the disciples heard what had happened to Peter and John, "they lifted up their voice to God with one accord..." (Acts 4:24).

Church History

Lyman Coleman, a church historian, wrote: "The prevailing mode of singing during the first three centuries was congregational. The whole congregation united their voices in the sacred song of praise, in strains suited to their ability the most ancient and most common mode of singing was confessedly for the whole assembly; men, women and children blend their voices in their songs of praise in the great congregation" (Ancient Christianity Exemplified, pages 329, 330).

All worship, at all times, and in all places must be done in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). If one does not worship in the right acts and with the right attitudes, his worship is vain and he is guilty of sin. There is absolutely no authority in the New Testament for the use of choirs and solos in worship. Therefore, those who practice such are worshipping in vain and are guilty of sin.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Clemmie Black (25th)
 - ⇒ Richard and Tonya (28th)
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Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Nehemiah
 - ⇒ **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.
 - ⇒ **Personal invitation handouts** are available . Please make sure to take some and handout or leave with a tip, and invite someone to our service!
 - ⇒ **Thanksgiving Potluck:** Today after morning services.
 - ⇒ **Visit:** As a congregation, we will visit Williams Chapel on 11-30.
 - ⇒ **5th Sunday Potluck:** After am service on 11-30.
 - ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Ketchup
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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
- ⇒ Wanda Riley (Josh Fulcher's Aunt)
- ⇒ James McAbee
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Whitney Tucker
- ⇒ Ima Barnes
- ⇒ Tammy Smith
- ⇒ Tonya Jones
- ⇒ Lashell Jones
- ⇒ Remember all who will be traveling this holiday season.
- ⇒ 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.



WORSHIP

- What is the Greek word for worship, and what does it mean? _____
- List the 5 avenues of worship: _____
- What day of the week are we commanded to worship on? _____
- Does the Bible approve dividing the assembly during in worship or “children's church”? _____
- Is everything we do in life worship? _____
- During worship how is everything to be done? _____
- Who is to take the leadership role in worship service? _____

1. Preaching

- Who was preaching in Troas on a Sunday, and what does this show us? _____
- Does preaching just have to be done on Sunday? _____
- What's the only thing we are allowed to preach? _____
- Outside of the worship assembly, can women teach? _____
- How do we worship God though preaching? _____
- What about the spirit side of worship and preaching? _____

2. Praying

- What are we to pray? _____
- Who are we to pray to, and who are we to pray through? _____
- What things should we pray for? _____
- How do we worship God in spirit and truth in prayer? _____

3. Giving

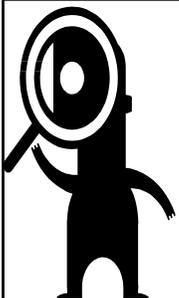
- What day of the week is giving to be done on? _____
- What is giving, and what should it be used for? _____
- Who should we give to? _____
- How do we worship God in spirit and truth by giving? _____

4. Lord's Supper

- When are we to partake of the Lord's Supper? _____
- What is in the Lord's Supper. and what do these emblems represent? _____
- Can we take of the Lord's Supper in the wrong way? If so, how? _____
- How do we worship God in spirit and truth by taking the Lord's supper? _____

5. Singing

- How are we commanded to make music in worship? _____
- Is there any authority in the NT for anything but singing? _____
- Who all is to make music by singing? _____
- If we are all to sing, can we have solos and choirs? _____
- What are we doing while we are singing? _____
- How do we worship God in spirit and truth while singing? _____



Bible question: What names, in the NT, are given to two men who withstood Moses?

Last week's answer: Colossians 4:16

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