

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..." (Jude 3)
December 06, 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

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:

Kevin Smith

Opening Prayer:

Richard Price

Scripture Reading:

Kyle Hobbs

Lord's Table

Josh Fulcher
Kevin Smith
Luke Puckett
Bradley Smith

Closing Prayer:

Johnny Downs

Greeters (East)

Kay and Linda

Greeters (West)

Amber and Boys

LESSONS

AM: Beauty and the
Beast

Scripture reading:

1John 1:5-10

PM: Divisions and
Decisions

Scripture reading:

Galatians 5:19-21

CHRISTMAS—A HISTORY

By: Jonnie Hutchison

This is the time of the year when the thoughts of many religious people who claim to be Christians turn to the birth of Jesus Christ. The history of how the celebration of “Christmas” as the birthdate of Jesus Christ was initiated is very interesting.

Roman pagans celebrated a holiday known as Saturnalia. This holiday was marked by a week long period of lawlessness which took place on December 17-25 each year. During this week long celebration Roman law dictated that no one could be punished for damaging property or causing injury to others. In each Roman community one person was chosen as an “enemy of the Roman people” and given the title of the “Lord of Misrule.” This person was forced to indulge in consuming food, drink and other physical pleasures throughout the week. At the end of the celebration on December 25th the “Lord of Misrule” was brutally murdered signifying the destruction of the forces of darkness. Lucian, an ancient Greek writer and historian, described the festivals observance in his time as not only including human sacrifice but widespread intoxication, going from house to house singing while naked, rape and other sexual license.

History reveals that in the 4th century, in an effort to convert pagans to “Christianity”, the Roman Catholic Church promised converted pagans that they could continue to keep the Saturnalia Festival after their conversion. Yet, there was nothing inherently “Christian” about this pagan holiday and thus December 25th was designated as the birthdate of Jesus Christ. Stephen Nissenbaum, professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, writes, “In return for ensuring massive observance of the anniversary of the Savior’s birth by assigning it to this resonant date, the Church for its part tacitly agreed to allow the holiday to be celebrated more or less the way it had always been.” This included drinking parties, sexual indulgence and singing naked in the streets. This is one of the reasons why “Christmas” was banned by the Puritans and its observance was illegal in Massachusetts between 1659 and 1681.

This brief history of the origin of the celebration of Christmas as a religious holy day indicates an extrabiblical origin. The New Testament is silent on celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ as a holy day. No apostle sanctioned such a celebration and there is absolutely no indication that the New Testament church participated in such a

celebration. While the day may be spent as a time of the gathering of family, the exchanging of gifts, etc. no religious connotations should be attributed to it if one will respect the silence of God.

While the record of the birth of Jesus Christ is important in proving His Deity, the emphasis in the Bible is upon the death of Jesus for the sins of the world which provides salvation through His shed blood (Matthew 26:26-28; Romans 5:8-9; Hebrews 2:9). Each first day of the week Christians observe the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of His death (Matthew 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). The first day of the week is the only day authorized by God as a special day of remembrance and worship for Christians.

There are many (and not a few members of the Lord’s church) who argue that placing an emphasis upon “Christmas” as the birthday of Jesus Christ is good and beneficial because it gets people thinking about Jesus. Jim Hackney was quoted in an article which appeared in the Christian Chronicle a few years ago saying, “Visitors come to our church on Christmas expecting to hear about the birth of Jesus. We don’t disappoint them. It’s too important to reach out in a positive way at that time.” With such reasoning some congregations of the churches of Christ have special services in celebration of the birth of Christ. Some put up “Christmas trees” in the church building, nativity scenes in the front yard, sing “Christmas songs” in the assembly and a “Christmas sermon” is delivered. Question: Is it possible for any religious practice that is unauthorized by scripture to be “good” or acceptable to God? The Bible still reads, “and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17). We might as well add coke and French fries to the Lord’s Supper as to celebrate “Christmas” as a religious holy day for there is not a dime’s worth of difference in the eyes of God since He has authorized neither.

When it comes to the **religious** celebration of “Christmas” no New Testament Church nor individual Christian can be compliant to it and still remain faithful to God. “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God....” (1 Peter 4:11).

—Via Green Plain Proclaimer

Birthdays & Anniversaries

⇒ Eddie and Judy (12th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Romans
- ⇒ **Team:** Team 1
- ⇒ **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 Jan 05 at 6:30pm here at the building.
- ⇒ **New Years Eve:** We will have a New Years Eve party here at the building December 31 starting at 6:00pm.
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Jelly

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)
- ⇒ David Brandon
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Mallory Harrison (cancer)
- ⇒ 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)
- ⇒ Lucetria Hutchison (Ronnie's mother)
- ⇒ Jay Kolb (Friend of Bill and Maria has brain tumor)
- ⇒ 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

Romans 1:1-2 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God (2) which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

Word: doulos (δουλος)

Pronounced: *doo'-los*

Translated into the word we use today: **Servant or Bondservant**

Meaning: according to Strong is: a slave (literally or figuratively, involuntarily or voluntarily; frequently therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency): - bond (-man), servant.

Supporting verse: John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

When this country was founded, it had a great problem with slaves. Men taking other men by force from their own homeland and making them work. It was part of the cause of the civil war in the 1860's. While this did happen, there were also other forms of slaves, those who chose to be. Just like in the Old Testament, servants or slaves could choose to remain a slave or servant to their master. They would go to the judges, pierce their ear with an awl and then would forever be a slave or servant to their master. This is the type of servant we are to be to Christ, one that chooses Christ as our Savior, King, and Master. We are to be bondservants to Christ, we should want to be a slave of His. Being a servant of Christ is far better than being one of sin. See, we are either a slave to Christ or a slave to sin. Romans 6:16 "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slave whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" Are you a servant to sin or Christ? Are you letting Christ control your life, by His word, or are you letting sin and Satan win? We have to choose either sin and death or Christ and eternal life. Why not choose Christ and be a servant to Him?



Bible question: What mother made her absentee son a new coat each year?

Last week's question and answer: Where is it prophesied about Jesus that not one of his bones would be broken?

Answer: Psalms 34:20

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