

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST January 10, 2021



## A GUIDE TO GIVING



Written by Clifton Angel

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." With whom did this statement originate? Jesus. In what context do we learn of it? Paul's departure meeting with the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:32-35). Using these verses, let's look closer at Paul's words to obtain a guide for giving.

**Remember your inheritance.** In closing, Paul said to the eldership from Ephesus, "And now, brethren, I ...

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*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).*

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VISITORS,  
WELCOME!

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes  
for all ages & fellowship  
for lunch every Sunday!

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### ELDERS

Billy Bland

Jim Jackson

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless

Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell

Joe Owen

Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

... commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). Peter said of this inheritance that it is "incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away" (1 Peter 1:4). This description immediately informs us that the inheritance Christians have awaiting them is far better than anything in this world—we must remember this if we are going to give properly.

**Resist covetousness.** Paul continued, "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel" (Acts 20:33). Covetousness can be defined as passionately desiring something you do not have. When was the last time someone admitted their sin of covetousness? It is a challenging thought for me to admit, but I'm afraid the "season of giving" is actually a "season of receiving." Why do people fight over "Black Friday deals?" Why is it such a popular day? Is it that some legitimately want to help the needy and on this day we can be better stewards in obtaining necessities? Perhaps. However, is it not more so because we are a covetous society and we are shopping for what someone wants, and not so much what someone needs? Dear reader, I claim no perfection in this area, but if we are going to be better givers, we must resist covetousness.

**Receive of your labors.** Paul said, "Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me" (Acts 20:34). Because "it is more blessed to give than to receive" does not negate our need to receive. It is logical and biblical that we must first provide for ourselves if we expect to be able to help another. There are two problems that frequently arise in this: (1) Some labor more for their lusts than their needs, and (2) Some refuse to labor and expect others to provide their needs.

**Render to the helpless.** "I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). There are people truly in need. They would work if they could. Or they may labor but still cannot provide their basic necessities. It is painful to be on the giving side of imposters making a mockery of the helpless and their helpers. Let them not hinder our giving as we labor and seek to "support the weak."

Truthfully, we've all been the imposter. That did not stop God from giving, even when it was painful. "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Angel family**, quarantined by exposure, but negative rapid tests; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**; **Wiley Tuggle**; **Sammy Williams**; **Inez Neyman**.

## **Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters**

## Family & Friends

**Laura Vaughn & family**, her father passed; **Phil & Glenda Meredith**, Tim's parents, coronavirus; **Linda Rosado**, Monica's mom, pneumonia; **Jillian Angel**, coronavirus; **Tracy Medley family**; **Ethylene Strange family**; **Thomas Gordon family**; **Eugene Payne family**; **Rick Fiorino family**; **Michael Sykes**.

## *Birthdays*

1/5 Cash Jackson  
1/5 Terri Sykes  
1/7 Tucker Johnson  
1/8 Dean Strickland  
1/14 Suzanne Wofford  
1/21 John Wofford  
1/23 Lara Angel  
1/25 Jeffrey Ferrell

## Get Involved!

**Youth Devotionals 2021**  
Sign up to host a youth devo!

**Nesbit Lectureship — Jan 27 – 31**  
Flyer on bulletin board

*Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*

— **Philippians 3:13–14** —

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, January 10

### *Morning*

Prayer Before Class	Jerry Davis
Announcements	Jim Jackson
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Billy Bland
Sermon	Tim Wilkes, II
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Andy Ratliff
Assist	

Closing Prayer	Joe Owen
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### *Afternoon*

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	John Wofford
Sermon	Billy Bland
Lord's Supper	Andy Ratliff

Closing Prayer	Tim Wilkes, II
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Wednesday, January 13

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Jim Jackson
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Tim Meredith

TECH:	Davis Johnson
HALL:	