

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Jan 21, 2018



## the DIVINE names

by Guy N. Woods

The body of people which constitutes the church of the New Testament is designated by various names. It is called "the Church" (Acts 2:47; 5:11; 8:1, etc.), "church of God" (1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 20:28), "church of the first born" (Heb. 12:23), "the house of God," "the church of the living God," and "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:13). Each of these designations set forth some characteristic thereof. The name "church of Christ," however, is the distinctive name of the church.

This is true for the following reasons:

1. This is the only Scriptural title that honors the Head of the church. "And he is the head of the body, the church

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

**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

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Joe Owen Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

–that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18). In order therefore that our Lord may have that preeminence so justly due him, the church of which he is head recognizes His headship by affixing thereto His name.

2. No other name so fitly sets forth the relationship which Christ sustains to His church. "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). Since He is the Bridegroom, His wife (the church) must acknowledge this by assuming His name.
3. No other title so completely reveals the ownership of Christ. He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church and gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18).

Individual followers of Christ are styled "disciples," "brethren," "believers," "saints," and "Christians." And, as in the case of the name of the church, each title sets forth some distinctive characteristic of our relationship as children of God. But the distinctive title is "Christians."

1. The disciples "were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). This name was of God-given origin (Isa. 62:2). In this name children of God are to glorify Him. "If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name" (1 Pet. 4:16).
2. Paul sought to make Agrippa simply a Christian and only a Christian. "Almost thou persuades me to be a Christian," said the disturbed monarch to the fearless apostle.
3. Christ was crucified for us, and into Him were we baptized. Paul assigned these reasons as grounds for repudiating all human names (See 1 Cor. 1:13; Acts 19:5).
4. No other name so completely honors Christ as our Savior. "Neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Eminent scholars of the various denotations have long recognized the sinfulness of human names and unscriptural titles. Martin Luther, the champion of Protestantism said,

I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. Paul (1 Cor. 1:13) would not that any should call themselves of Paul, nor, of Peter, but of Christ. How then, does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of Christ? Cease, my dear friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions; away with them all; and let us call ourselves only Christians after Him from whom our doctrine comes (Life of Luther, by Stork, p. 289).

John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism, in the Introduction to his Translation of the New Testament, wrote:

Would to God that all party names and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian world were forgotten; that we might agree to sit down together as humble, loving disciples at the feet of the common Master to hear His word, imbibe His spirit, and to transcribe His life in our own.

In "Universal Knowledge" Vol. 9, p. 540, he is quoted as saying that he wished "the very name (Methodist) might never be mentioned more, but be buried in eternal oblivion."

In the "Spurgeon Memorial Library," Vol. 1, p. 168, Mr. Spurgeon, the most eminent Baptist preacher who ever lived said, "I look forward with pleasure to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name last forever." Such is the deliverance of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, who for many years preached to thousands of people every Sunday in the Metropolitan Tabernacle of London.

And finally, A.J. Gordon, Baptist, in "Select Northfields Sermons" said,

"If the church is the bride of Christ, the bride must have the same name as the bridegroom. If the church is the body of Christ, she must have the same name as her Head. It would be strange if my body and my head should bear different names. In some comments on the passage, "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch," it is held that this name was given in derision. I think not. If you study the use of the Greek word "called," you will conclude that they were divinely called Christians. God gave them that name. James speaks about rich men blaspheming that "beautiful name by which you were called."

Such are the candid opinions of eminent scholars. May the day soon come when all will be willing, as were these, to repudiate all human names and be content with that Name first worn by the disciples in Antioch, the name "Christian."

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Inez Neyman**, fractured pelvis, receiving rehab;  
**Several** traveling; **Seth Daniel**; **India** mission;  
**Wiley Tuggle**; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**.

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

### Family & Friends

**John Wayne Blough family**, Jim's friend died of heart attack; **Wayne Cooper family**, Jan's brother died; **Sarah Jones**, David Jones' mother, not doing well; **Ernest Russell family**, Dana's cousin recently died; **Marilyn Walker**, Inez's daughter; **Amber King family**, Tyler's aunt that passed; **Faye Lipford family**; **S.J. Edwards' family**; **Joy Angel**, Clifton's sister; **Darrell Martin**, Chris' father, leukemia; **Marci Cox**, Dana's cousin; **Jeff & Janie Brister**; **Fernando Casacuberta**, Jared's friend, MS; **Macadden Easley**; **Robbie Patterson**, Terry Bland's sister; **Lyla Childers**; **Lee Davis**; **Matt Brooks**, stationed in Qatar; **Iris Casteel**; **Judy Dowelling**; **Ray Maples**; **Becky Latimer**; **Kristie Deffenbaugh**; **Raleigh Wood**; **Carole Livsey**; **Lisa Hogan**; **Ava Roten**; **Sharon Brewer**; **Mac Owen**; **Rhonda Cook**; **Wanda Coats**; **Tammy Powell**; **Lawton O'Brien**; **Beverly Whitecotton**; **Peggy Hunt**; **Jason Spencer**; **Elizabeth Baker**; **Frankie Burfield**; **Renee Loya**; **Martha Hatfield**.

### Birthdays

1/5 Terry Sykes	1/22 Katherine King
1/5 Cash Jackson	1/22 Lexi Miller
1/6 Mindy Moore	1/23 Lara Angel
1/7 Tucker Johnson	1/21 John Wofford
1/8 Dean Strickland	1/25 Jeffrey Ferrell
1/14 Suzanne Wofford	1/30 Stephanie Bayless
1/15 Clarence Edwards	

## Get Involved!

**Sen. Health & Rehab Devo — Jan 24 — 10 AM**

**Coldwater Singing Night — Jan 31 — 7 PM**

**Nesbit Lectureship — Jan 26 — 28**

**Sunday Afternoon for the Savior — Feb 4**  
Between Services

**Providence Place Devo — Feb 11 — 2 PM**

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, January 21

### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jerry Davis
Announcements	Andy Ratliff
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Russell Wadsworth
	Billy Bland
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Davis Johnson
Opening Prayer	Tim Meredith
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Chris Martin

### Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Jared Brown
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jerry Davis
	Davis Johnson
	Marc Strickland
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, January 24

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Kevin Dixon
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

TECH:	Noah Davis
HALL:	Andy & Molly Ratliff