

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Feb. 17, 2013



An Empty House

“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation” (Mt. 12:43-45).

Jesus tells of an evil spirit which was removed from a man. The evil spirit looked everywhere for a place to reside after being cast out, but could not find a suitable place. The evil spirit then returned to his former dwelling place, and finding it vacant, returned with seven spirits more evil than he. Jesus informs us that this man was much worse off than he was originally. Jesus is teaching us a very important lesson concerning the keeping of our heart. When one obeys the gospel by believing in Christ (Heb. 11:6), repenting of his sin (Lk. 13:3), confessing the name of Christ (Rom. 10:10), and being immersed in water for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38), we have, as the man in Matthew 12:43-45, cleansed the house, that is, we have removed the "evil spirit" from our house.

But all too often after we have removed the evil from our lives, we fail to fill our lives with those things that will keep...

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 & Pew Packers
each Sunday at 12:30

P.O. Box 321

2008 Hwy. 306

(1.2 miles east of I-55)

Coldwater, MS 38618

(662) 622-7951

emailus@coldwatercofc.com

www.coldwatercofc.com

ELDERS

Billy Bland

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

...the evil from returning. As the evil spirit returned to the unoccupied house of the man, so will evil return to our lives if we do not fill our house or our lives with righteousness.

It is very sad to see people converted to Christ, and yet, take no precautions to keep the evil from returning to their lives. James said, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jam. 4:7). Paul declared, "neither give place to the devil" and "put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 4:27; 6:11). We are only able to keep the devil out of our house if we guard against his return. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield your selves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:16-18). Beloved, if the devil sees our house vacant of pure and undefiled religion (Jam. 1:27), if he observes that we are not thinking on pure, honest, just, true, lovely, good and virtuous things (Phil. 4:8), if he finds us no longer standing for the truth (Tit. 2:1), he will soon occupy our house once again. Jesus said that the state of this kind of person "is worse than the first" (Mt. 12:45). This same thought is set forth by Peter in a different way, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then are once again entangled therein, and overcome, the later end is worse with them than the beginning. For it is better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" (2 Pt. 2:20-21).

It is an absolute necessity that after removing Satan from our lives, that we fill our lives with truth and godliness which will prevent Satan from returning where he once resided. Don't leave your house empty!!!

-Written by Tom Moore
Adapted from bulletin of Nesbit church of Christ

HISTORY CHANNEL'S WHAT'S THE EARTH WORTH?

This week the History Channel aired a special episode about the value of our planet. They examined aspects such as diamonds, gold, lumber, water, and nearly everything on earth and came up with a price tag. From their calculation, our earth is worth \$6,873,951,620,979,800, or to put it in words, nearly seven quadrillion dollars.

It is very hard to comprehend just how much money this is. Millionaires and billionaires are incredibly wealthy, but their wealth is pocket change compared to the value of the earth. When we think about what the earth is worth, it really makes the words of Matthew 16:26 come to life, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" In other words, it would be futile for a person to give up his soul, even if he gained all seven quadrillion dollars of the earth's value.

This should serve as a reminder to examine where our focus is in this life. There is little value in gaining wealth and prominence. The most worthwhile way to use our time and effort is on the spiritual and eternal. Let's close with the familiar words of Jesus' in Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

-Written by Brett Petrillo

Adapted from bulletin of Nesbit church of Christ

Sermon Review

The Greatest Worship (Part 2): Leadership in Worship

- I. Dictated by God
- II. Directing Hearts to God
- III. Indwelt by God (Enthusiasm)

A Friend Like Philip?

(John 1:43-51)

- I. A Friend Who Complied: "Follow Me".
- II. A Friend Who Invited: "Come and See".
- III. A Friend Who Allowed Christ to Speak.

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Herbert Bowman, Helen's husband, died last Sunday.
Wiley & Betty Tuggle; Sue Cobern

OpenDoor Ministry
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Greg Myers, Krystal's father, back surgery went well, at home recovering; **Shirley Moore**, Betty C.'s sister; **John Simpson and family**, paralyzed from stroke, has been bed-ridden for about two years; **Joe & Josephine Johnston**, Christian residents at Providence Place, they have also requested prayers for their sons, Charles and Chris; **Nicholas Franks; Winchester family; Frederick Bland; Clyde Pruiett**, Jeffrey's grandfather; **Kenneth Webb**, Krystal's grandfather, melanoma; **Jerry Price**, husband of Molly's assistant, has brain tumor; **Terry Hawkins; Barbara Denton**, friend of Molly, stage 3 cervical cancer. **Brigman Family; Janice Jenkins**, co-worker to Beverly Hayes, rare form of cancer. **Carla Carlson** and her battle with cancer; **Matthew Canada; Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, cancer; **Stewart Family; Doris Easley; Curtis A. Cates; Eli Williams; Ray Maples; Wayne Collinsworth; Andrew Hagewood; Janie Brister; Chuck Tharp; Renee Loya; Aubree Harris; Virginia Mayfield; Peyton Harville; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.**

Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5, ASV).

Get Involved!

Young at Heart Banquet -- Feb 23
Youth arrive at 4pm; Dinner served at 4:30
See Amanda Ferrell to join in on assisting

Bible Bowl -- March 9 -- Genesis 10 – 12

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- March 3

February Birthdays

2/7	Abigail Wilkes
2/8	Leigh Anne Owen
2/12	Terry Bland
2/13	Ashby Johnson
2/13	Tim Wilkes, II
2/14	Eric Jackson
2/25	Betty Tuggle

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, February 17

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Billy Bland
Announcements	Jared Brown
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jim Jackson
	Payton Jackson
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Opening Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Jeremy Moore
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jim Jackson
	Payton Jackson
	Jared Brown
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, February 20

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Jared Brown
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Ron Johnson