

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST March 22, 2020



As with any natural event (**or disaster, CRA**), hurricanes teach us at least three valuable lessons.

## **We Do Not Know Everything about God and the World**

In Job 38:1, "the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said..." In the context of Job, it was very fitting for the Lord to answer him from a storm. Exactly what kind of storm the "whirlwind" describes is uncertain. It could have been a tornado, thunderstorm or a specially designed storm. However, one thing is clear: Job did not know everything he thought he knew about God and this world. The Book of Job opens with God allowing Satan to take away Job's material possessions (including his children, Job 1:12-22). Then, this prosperous patriarch's health was ruthlessly taken away (Job 2:6-10). We know that God allowed this not because He was punishing Job, but to the contrary, because He was proving to Satan that Job was righteous (Job 1:1, 8; 2:3) and that he did not "fear God for nothing" (Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5).

Job and his three friends, however, were not privileged to the knowledge we have from Chapters 1-2. Thus, the main portion of the

*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!

P.O. Box 321

2008 Hwy. 306

(1.2 miles east of I-55)

Coldwater, MS 38618

(662) 622-7951

[emailus@coldwatercofc.com](mailto:emailus@coldwatercofc.com)

[www.coldwatercofc.com](http://www.coldwatercofc.com)

### ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell JoeOwen

Andy Ratliff Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

Book of Job concerns the principle human characters trying to figure out Job's situation. In their minds, sin is what always caused pain and suffering. Since Job suffered so much, he must have committed grievous sin. Job, however, knew that he had not sinned to the degree that he deserved the kind of suffering he was enduring. We know that our sin is not the cause of all our suffering (Luke 13:1-5; John 9:1-3), but Job and his friends were philosophically entrenched with that idea. Throughout the middle portion of the book, Job tried to justify himself at God's expense, even to the point of seemingly accusing God (Job 19:6-13). Job's three friends tried to justify God at Job's expense, even to the point of naming the sins Job must have committed (Job 22:5-9). Each side thought it knew God and the workings of this world, but each came to the realization that it neither knew God nor this world like they thought.

The "whirlwind" was a very appropriate place from which the Lord spoke. Storms, especially tornadoes, are among the most unpredictable of nature. Through this "whirlwind" the Lord asked Job a series of questions, each of which showed that Job did not quite know everything he thought he knew. Likewise, with the hurricanes that plague us from time to time, they show us that we do not know everything we think we know. We are extremely blessed to have the technology whereby we can know that a hurricane is coming and thus prepare for it. However, even with this technology, we do not know everything we think we know. In 2004, Hurricane Charley turned unexpectedly and caught many unprepared. Only the Lord knows the path of a hurricane! Storms teach us that we do not know everything we may think we know.

## **God is All-Powerful**

In the first Gospel record, we read of this incident in the life of Jesus:

**Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" (Matthew 8:23-27).**

As powerful as a storm is, God is more powerful. Those of us who "rode out" hurricanes in the past, especially those three in a row of 2004, know firsthand the power of the wind and rain often associated with these storms. We could see and feel the power, and we were totally powerless to do anything about it except run for cover and trust in the Lord! We do not know the exact intensity of the storm Jesus and His disciples encountered on the Sea of Galilee, but we do know that Jesus had power over it.

Two truths come to mind from this incident. First, we must never fail to trust in the Lord, even in the severest of storms. Jesus' response, "O you of little faith," was a response that He only directed to His disciples (other occurrences are in Matthew 6:30; 14:31; 16:8; Luke 12:28). It was a mild rebuke for those who should have known better. Of all people who should not be "fearful," it should be the Lord's disciples (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5). How sad it is when we fail to trust in the Lord!

Second, God is powerful. Not only is the power of God known through the storm, as in the case of Job, His power is known from this incident by the Lord's ability to calm the raging storm. Imagine if in the midst of a hurricane—branches flying everywhere, roofs peeling off, rain horizontally slicing the sky—the Lord spoke, and all the fury instantaneously turned to calm. That would be some power! Our reaction would be like those on the boat with Jesus, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!" Although God's will today does not include miraculously calming storms (1 Corinthians 13:8-13), the Biblical record is true, and it lets us know that God is all-powerful.

### **Trust in the Lord**

Future hurricanes may spare us their fury or our material possessions may be devastated. However, since we do not know everything we may think we know about God and this world, and since we know that God is all-powerful, let us trust in Him to see us through. There are at least three relevant aspects of this trust. First, trust that God will not allow us more than we can handle (1 Corinthians 10:13). As James wrote, we can and must "count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4).

Second, trust God's inspired Word that "we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). No matter how bad a situation may seem, good can come out of it. Let us use trials as steppingstones to greater faith rather than as stumbling blocks to apostasy! Third, trust that hurricanes, even at their worst, allow us to "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Let us help people mend their lives after the storms of life have devastated. When we help, let us not just meet the physical needs, but let us look toward eternity and point to Jesus, who is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Jan Daniel**, recovering from heart surgery; **Seth Daniel**, cancer treatments; **Mary Alice Arnold**, recovering from cataract surgery; **Wiley Tuggle**; **Terry Davis**; **Sammy Williams**; **Inez Neyman**; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**.

## Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters

### Family & Friends

**Richard Neal**, Clifton's neighbor, cancer treatments; **Crutcher Comer**, grandson of Ginger's friends, born premature and battling several health complications; **Terry Cummings**, friend of Faye Edwards, at DiversaCare where Sherry resides; **Jack Tidwell family**, Mischel's grandfather; **Gin Phillips**, Mischel's mom, doing well following breast cancer surgery; **Martha Williams**, Amanda Lyon's grandmother, dementia.

### Birthdays

3/6	Emma Wofford
3/9	Ginger Bayless
3/9	Jan Daniel
3/13	Carl Zluticky
3/15	Leah Angel
3/24	Johnny Bayless
3/29	Payton Jackson

## Get Involved!

**Sign up to TEACH 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr, begins Apr 5**

### **New Digital Directory Is Available**

See John Wofford for details to access

### **5th Sunday Contribution: March 29**

All money above budget goes to building fund

### **Temporary Service Time:**

**Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM**

Bible classes, PM worship, fellowship meal, and other activities postponed temporarily.

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, March 22

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeffrey Ferrell
Announcements	Jim Jackson
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Marc Strickland
	Tim Meredith
Assist	Bodie Meredith
	Mika Meredith
Opening Prayer	Billy Bland
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Kevin Dixon

#### Afternoon

Song Leader	<b>P</b>
Opening Prayer	<b>O</b>
Sermon	<b>S</b>
Lord's Supper	<b>T</b>
	<b>P</b>
Closing Prayer	<b>P</b>

### Wednesday, March 25

Song Leader	<b>O</b>
Prayer	<b>N</b>
Invitation	<b>E</b>
Prayer	<b>D</b>

TECH:	Davis Johnson
HALL:	