

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 8, 2012



## Springing Up Thoughts of Resurrection

by Mike Gifford

Each season has its own unique qualities that make it either favored or not so favored by the human race. Some love the hot days of Summer while others dread them. Some thoroughly enjoy the cold days of Winter while others shudder at the thought of that time of year. In between those two extremes lie the transitional seasons of Autumn and Spring. Autumn, with its blast of colors in the trees, reminds us of the Master Artist whose creative processes paint every leaf. As each of these three seasons bears its own distinctive characteristics, so it is with Spring which, with its freshness and vibrancy brings to mind thoughts of renewed energy and life.

From a spiritual perspective, Spring is a daily reminder of not just life, but new life. The flowers that have laid dormant during the cold winter begin to show their heads at the first signs of Spring with many bursting into full bloom during the season. Birds that have rested quietly or even flown to warmer locations during Winter return to their songs and soon produce another generation of singers. Spring is a reminder of new life, of rebirth. Spring brings to the heart of a Christian thoughts of a new life in the hereafter, of resurrection into the eternal home with God.

The fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians is the definitive section of Sacred Scripture on the subject of resurrection. Paul begins by affirming the fact of the resurrection from the dead in demonstrating that a Christian's hope in eternity rests upon 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

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for  
all ages & Pew Packers  
on 1st & 3rd Sundays at  
4:15 p.m.

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

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

...the truthfulness of Jesus Christ's resurrection. He writes, "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (I Corinthians 15:13-19). The chapter closes with reflections on the resurrection of the righteous and concludes with these beautiful sentiments made possible by the power of resurrection. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:55-57).

That all will be raised is confirmed by Jesus' statements in John 5:28-29. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Some of the new life we see in the spring is not welcome as weeds, insects and other less than desirable items are renewed. Spiritually speaking, all will be raised, but not all shall be resurrected toward the heavenly realm. For some, resurrection will be most unpleasant and a gateway into eternal damnation.

In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Paul pictures the resurrection of the righteous as a reunion with those who are alive when the Lord comes in judgment. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (verse 17). Just as we look forward to the freshness of Spring after a dark, cold winter, so we can look forward to the resurrection and reunion with the faithful who have gone on after life in a sinful world.

John expresses an exquisite thought in I John 3:2. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." Resurrection for the righteous brings with it a face-to-face meeting with the Lord Himself. Can there possibly be any better motivation to prepare for or reason to desire resurrection than this? Spring brings the warmer air, the greening grass, the chirping birds and everything else of which we dream in winter's cold days. Resurrection brings us to our Lord and Savior.

It's no wonder that John later wrote, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20).

The season of Spring is indeed grand. Thoughts of resurrection and eternity with God and the faithful of all time are grander still.

### **This Week's Daily Bible Reading:**

Sunday:	2 Samuel 13-15
Monday:	2 Samuel 16-18
Tuesday:	2 Samuel 19-21
Wednesday:	2 Samuel 22-24
Thursday:	1 Kings 1-2
Friday:	1 Kings 3-5
Saturday:	1 Kings 6-7

## *Mark Your Calendars!*

Men & Children Campout	April 27 - 28
Coldwater VBS	June 10 - 14
Sardis Lake Christian Camp	June 17 - 23

### *Sermon Review*

#### **I'm a Preacher...Now What?**

(1 & 2 Timothy, & Titus)

- I. Preach
- II. Model
- III. Fight

#### **A Study of Fools**

- I. Psalm 14:1; Psalm 53:1
- II. Proverbs 10:18
- III. Proverbs 10:23
- IV. Proverbs 12:15
- V. Proverbs 26:11; 2 Pet. 2:20-22
- VI. Luke 12:13-21

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Tim, II**, Rachel, Titus, & Abigail, as Tim is traveling, doing the Lord's work!

**Nora Boling; Herbert & Helen Bowman; Sue Cobern; Shirley Yarbro; Wiley Tuggle & Betty Tuggle.**

**Far East Missions  
OpenDoor Ministry  
Fishers of Men**

\*\*\*Update on Eli Williams below!

## Family & Friends

**Mary Brett Baird**, in ICU at LeBonheur. **Gary Daugherty**, husband of Amanda Ferrell's assistant, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and has been given 6 months to 1 year to live. **Lavon Holden**, Jared's great-uncle, has pneumonia. **Sheena Hunt**, has a nerve system problem that is causing other health problems including with her heart. **James Angel**, Clifton's uncle, has cancer and not doing well. **Linda Penciston**, co-worker of Johnny Bayless. **Sherry Brown**. **Terry DeBerry**, wife of MSOP student, is currently doing well and awaiting receipt of new kidneys. Prayer is powerful! **Nicole Blagburn**, co-worker of Molly, has been diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 30. **Chuck Tharp**, prostate cancer. **Eli Williams**, and his cancer treatment; He jus had another surgery that went well and he was able to read Scripture publicly in Nashville this weekend; **Missy Kelsay**, battling cancer. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, has cancer. **Renee Loya**, (cousin of Elizabeth Baker), has MS. **Ray Maples** undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia. **Janie Brister** has multiple health problems.

**Aubree Harris; Lajuan Collums; Harvey Tuggle; Virginia Mayfield; Peyton Harville; Charles Easley; Gloria Angel; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.**

## April Birthdays

4/4 -- Nora Boling  
4/6 -- Ainsley Moore  
4/20 -- Aubrey Ratliff

## April Anniversary

4/4 -- Ashby & Tammy Johnson

## Get Involved!

### **Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012**

Let's continue to read and study together!!

**Providence Place Devo -- TODAY -- 2PM**

**Cookout at the Jackson's -- April 14 -- 5PM**

**E3 Fellowship Meal & Early Service -- April 15**

**Coldwater Workday -- April 21**

**Men & Children Campout -- April 27 - 28**

**Bible Bowl -- April 28 -- 5PM**  
Looxahoma building -- **ALL** invited! Potluck meal!

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, April 8

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jim Jackson
Announcements	Billy Bland
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Assist	Wiley Tuggle
Opening Prayer	Caleb Baker
Sermon	Jeffrey Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Seth Daniel
	Clifton Angel
	Jerry Davis

#### Evening

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Jared Brown
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Caleb Baker
	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Jason Bayless
Closing Prayer	

### Wednesday, April 11

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Billy Bland
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Wiley Tuggle