

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Apr. 28, 2013



## Because of God's Grace, Work!

The relationship between God's grace and man's works are challenging to understand when considering the doctrines of the denominational world. However, a close and honest examination of scripture, stripped from the commands and doctrines of men, will result in knowledge of truth that will yield toward a life of spiritual freedom (cf. John 8:32). Does man work to earn his salvation? Does God not require anything upon man for salvation because it is given by His grace alone? How do the works of men relate to the grace of God and what does this have to do with thankfulness?

What is grace? It has commonly been defined as unmerited favor. Strong's Greek Lexicon defines it as "benefit, favour (sic), gift... thank (-s, -worthy)." Basically, it is something given that is favorable and of great benefit that is unearned and undeserved. What then exemplifies God's grace? Romans 6:23 states "the wages of sin is death." Romans 3:23 explains that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Therefore, all accountable souls who have sinned against God are deserving of death. However, because of God's gracious longsuffering of man's sin, mankind is sustained (cf. 2 Peter 3:9). The sun rises and we continue to enjoy breath and life because of God's graciousness, which is again, God's favor upon us that we have not earned (cf. Hebrews 1:3; Acts 17:28). So, God's grace is seen in the very continuance of creation and sustainment of our life.

God's grace is also manifest beyond the physical. After stating that "the wages of sin is death", Romans 6:23 goes on explaining that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God has...

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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 & Pew Packers  
each Sunday at 12:30

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### 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

...given mankind a gift, an undeserved favor that is beneficial, and that gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ. It would be through Jesus that mankind would then receive the inspired gospel message that instructs man of salvation (cf. John 16:13; Mark 16:15; Romans 1:16). Titus 2:11-12 explains that "the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." The Bible, the inspired word of God (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17), is a gift from God! Mankind did not do anything to earn the words that supply God's roadmap to salvation.

So, what is the relationship with the grace of God (eternal life through Jesus Christ via the gospel) and the works of men? What has God commanded of men (via the gospel that has been freely given to men) concerning works? Jesus stated in Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Paralleling from what Matthew wrote in 7:13-14, Jesus stated the following regarding the strait gate, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Just these verses alone explain the difficulty and striving that is required to enter into salvation. However, the gate that one is to strive to enter through has been given by God's grace. In other words, God has supplied the pathway and the gate that leads to life by His graciousness, but in order for man to enter in to that way and gate, labor and work is required of him. How so?

Consider, how difficult it is for one who does not know God and is brought up in a family that is bent toward heathenism. The influence and the impact of such rearing would be a struggle and one of great pain to break off. Jesus stated in Matthew 10:37-38, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." For one to embrace the love of Christ and cleave to His will over the wishes and influence of a deeply rooted yet heathenistic family would be a task requiring excruciating pain, labor and sacrifice. However, in order for one to become worthy to receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus, such is required.

Those who love God more than their own life and strive to enter into that gracious gate and walk in that gracious way will experience a life of great blessings and enjoy eternal life in the world to come. Mark 10:29-30 state the words of Jesus: "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or...

...lands, for my sake, and the gospel's. But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." God will provide for those who are willing to labor to leave whatever is necessary to be able embrace and receive the gracious gift of His Son. By man laboring to enter into the gate on the way that God has graciously provided, he is not doing works that earn his salvation, but is doing works that put him in line with God's glory and the salvation He has offered. Paul explains that flesh should not glory in the presence of God and that glory, or earned and worthy praise, is given only to the Lord (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:29, 31). When man works and labors to do whatever it takes to obey God, He is not working works of merit that earn his salvation, but is working to put himself in the kingdom where God has supplied salvation and where God is glorified. Matthew 6:33 explains that if man seeks "first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" man will be cared for, and in Ephesians 3:21, we learn that God is glorified in His kingdom, which is the church (cf. Col 1:13; Acts 2:47).

How is thankfulness involved in the relationship between grace and works? Recognizing the blessing of the unearned blood of Christ and realizing that the gospel is not just a book of rules but is a gracious gift from God that is undeserved by man, ought to provoke man to cleave to it and take full advantage of it by striving to glorify God while laboring to do His will. What a joy it is to be able to a) know God's will b) do God's will and c) have a life filled with blessings seeking God's will (cf. Matt 6:33)! How do we perceive the commandments and way of God? As a burden? Something we "have to do"? Or are we thankful for the blessing of the gracious gospel and thankful that obeying the word granted to us is something we "GET to do"? Biblical work does not EARN salvation, nor is it IN VAIN in regards to salvation- it is a THANKFUL RESPONSE to salvation! "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). Because of God's grace, work!

**(See more at [www.BeStillandKnowGod.com](http://www.BeStillandKnowGod.com))**

-written by Sean B. O'Brien

## *Sermon Review*

### **Lead Me to Calvary**

(Luke 23:33)

- I. There: A Place
- II. They: A Prosecution
- III. Crucified: A Punishment
- IV. Him: A Prince

### **Earth Day**

(Gen 1:1ff; Acts 1:8; 2 Pet 3:9-10)

For a Christian, everyday is "earth day" because of...

- I. The First Day
- II. Today
- III. The Last Day

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Wiley & Betty Tuggle**, Wiley continues to have complications; Betty cannot have laser surgery;  
**Sue Cobern; Helen Bowman**

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

## Family & Friends

**Beech family**, recipients of benevolence, requests our prayers; **West, TX** residents and fertilizer plant owner and other brethren in that area; **Frank Chamberlain family, Sharon Free**, lady that lost her son to drug overdose, Mindy knows her; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**, in trying to adopt Faith; **Annette Cates; Noah Judd**, premature newborn of friends of Brown's; **Kenneth Webb**, Krystal's grandfather, melanoma, has received a new medication and recently suffered a fall; **Carly Wright**, 3 yr. old with stage 3 cancer in liver area, inoperable, receiving chemo; **John Simpson and family; Joe & Josephine Johnston**, Christian residents at Providence Place, Joe recently suffered a fall, they have also requested prayers for their sons, Charles and Chris; **Nicholas Franks**, friend to Wiley, cancer; **Frederick Bland; 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; **Greg Myers, Matthew Canada; Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, cancer; **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.**

## April Birthdays

4/1 Joe Owen  
4/6 Ainsley Moore  
4/14 Krystal Myers  
4/20 Aubrey Ratliff

## April Anniversaries

4/4 Ashby & Tammy Johnson

## Get Involved!

**Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- May 5**

**Nesbit Gospel Meeting -- May 5 – 8**  
Preaching, Robert Jefferies

**Camping -- May 10**  
\*\*Meeting today between services\*\*

**Providence Place Devo -- May 12**

**Ladies Day at Southaven -- May 18**  
See flyer on bulletin board

**Coldwater VBS -- June 9 – 13**

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, April 28

### Morning

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

### Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Wiley Tuggle
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jason Bayless
	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Jeremy Moore
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, May 1

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Jared Brown
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Joe Owen