

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 19, 2013



## GOD'S VOTE

Tate County recently has had some primary elections, one in particular being for the mayor of Coldwater. I cannot help but to think of God's election. This subject is a mystery to many and misunderstood by others. Some teach God's election in a way that contradicts God's design of freewill. They say that before the foundation of the world, God individually selected each person that would be saved and each person that would be lost. Such teaching contradict's God's nature, design, and will.

Paul told the Christians in Thessalonica that he knew they were in God's election (1 Thessalonians 1:4). How could he know that? He knew it because he knew that God's election is the church. He knew they were called by the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14). He knew they had obeyed the gospel (Acts 17:1-4). And he knew that the Lord adds those who are saved to His church (Acts 2:47). Therefore, God's election was foreordained (1 Peter 1:2), but its consummation or accomplishment takes place in the preaching of the gospel (calling) and those who have heard obeying the gospel message. But not everyone that is called will become a part of the election. "For many be called, but few chosen" (Matthew 20:16). God calls all, but chooses only those who obey. Again, those who obey are added to the church, which was purposed by God (Ephesians 3:10-11) and so they belong to His election. (continued)

*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

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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

(continued from front page)

Let's imagine that you wanted me to be mayor of Coldwater. So, you prepare everything surrounding the election. You even make sure with absolute certainty that I will win. But when I am made aware of the election offered to me, I deny the candidacy. Because of my lack of cooperation, all the work that you have done still does not force me to become mayor. Now, God's wants each person to be a part of his election, the church (1 Timothy 2:4). He has planned the election, and He has done great works to make sure with absolute certainty that we will win. But if there is no cooperation on our part, we will not be a part of His election. He has called us by His gospel message (2 Thessalonians 2:14). He calls us to believe in Jesus (John 3:16). He calls us to repent—to change the direction of our lives (Acts 2:38). He calls us to confess our faith in Christ (Romans 10:10). He calls us to be baptized into Christ (Mark 16:16). And after baptism, He calls us to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). Have we accepted the calls and become a part of God's election?

—written by Clifton Angel

## Sinful Babies

Children are precious. They are so precious that Jesus references how that immediately after a mother gives birth to a child, “she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world” (John 16:21). Children truly are a gift from God (Psalm 127), and though I am yet to be a father, my heart is made merry by observing their simplicity, energy, and seeming innocency.

With that said, none of the above proves that a child is sinless. If we reference a child's preciousness and seeming innocency, we are only making an emotional appeal and not a Biblical one. On the other extreme, if we reference a child's seeming disobedience, crying, and strain on the parents to try to prove that they sin, we are only making an emotional appeal and not a Biblical one. And yes, I have heard of some referring to a infant's crying as evidence for that infant having sin. Maybe you are reading this, and you believe that. The question is, what does the Bible teach?

Some say that a child has sin because it was passed down from his parents. Others

say that a child has sin because it was passed down from Adam. But the Bible says this: “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him” (Ezekiel 18:20). Sin is not transferrable; it is one’s own transgression of God’s laws (1 John 3:4). Can a young child transgress God’s laws?

Implied in the act of sinning is the mental ability to understand God’s laws. Implied in the Gospel plan of salvation is the mental ability to believe that one has sinned and that Jesus bore our sins on the cross, which faith comes from hearing God’s Word (Romans 10:17; Mark 16:16). Implied in the Gospel plan of salvation is the mental ability to repent—determining in one’s mind that he will abandon a life of sin and embrace the Savior (Acts 2:38); many adults do not understand this one, much less a child. Implied in the Gospel plan of salvation is the mental ability to submit oneself to immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3–4). Sprinkling an infant is not Biblical immersion, nor is it the infant’s decision.

According to the Bible, the title for this article is an oxymoron—contradicting words used in conjunction. Infants are not born with sin, nor do they sin. “Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:2–3). When a person is converted, he is made pure—free from sin—just as a child (Acts 3:19). Have you been converted?

—written by *Clifton Angel*

## *Sermon Review*

### **A Mother’s Instruction**

(Proverbs 31:1–9)

King Lemuel’s mother taught him...

- I. Preservation of Self
- II. Protection of Judgment
- III. Perpetuation of Service

### **The Day That Jesus Wrote on the Ground**

(John 8:2–11)

We don’t know what he wrote on the ground, but we know he wrote a message ...

- I. On the Consciences of the Scoffers
- II. In the Heart of a Sinner
- III. In a Book about the Savior

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

Inez Neyman had a loop monitor put in for her heart.  
**Wiley & Betty Tuggle**, Betty trying to recover from eye surgery; **Sue Cobern**; **Helen Bowman**

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

## Family & Friends

**Bob Spurlin**, has had some very rough days recently; **Jim Murrell**, gospel preacher in need of a heart transplant; **Kam Spencer**, multiple health problems; **Andy Jones**, esophagus cancer; **Ally Jo Kelly**, toddler with leukemia, granddaughter of Terry's cousin. **Julie Jones**, friend of Inez, in hospice care; **Beech family**; **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; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**, **Annette Cates**; **Noah Judd**; **Kenneth Webb**, **Carly Wright**, 3 yr. old with stage 3 cancer in liver area; **John Simpson and family**; **Joe & Josephine Johnston**, and their sons, Charles and Chris; **Nicholas Franks**; **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**; **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**; **David Bragg**.

## April Birthdays

5/6	Dylan Moore	5/22	Brisa Davis
5/7	Rebecca Brown	5/24	Anna Johnson
5/15	Andy Ratliff	5/25	Davis Johnson

## April Anniversaries

5/15	Jason & Ginger Bayless
5/17	Joe & Leigh Anne Owen
5/19	Seth & Janice Daniel
5/22	Troy & Sue Cobern
5/23	Johnny & Stephanie Bayless
5/24	Bill & Claire Easley
5/26	Jimmy & Virginia Sowell
5/31	Billy & Terry Bland

## Get Involved!

**Coldwater Singing Night -- May 29**

**Independence Gospel Meeting -- June 2 – 5**  
Preaching, Eric Owens

**Coldwater Trade Days Booth -- June 8**  
Sign up sheet on table in foyer

**Coldwater VBS -- June 9 – 13**  
6:30 – 8:00 each night

**Sardis Lake Christian Camp -- June 16 – 22**  
Apply online at [www.sardislakechristiancamp.org](http://www.sardislakechristiancamp.org)

**Thyatira VBS -- June 23 – 27**

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, May 19

### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeremy Moore
Announcements	Billy Bland
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jason Bayless
	Jared Brown
Assist	Joe Owen
	Daniel Owen
Opening Prayer	Jim Jackson
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

### Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Joe Owen
	Daniel Owen
	Ron Johnson
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, May 22

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Jerry Davis
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Billy Bland