

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 26, 2011



## BAGGAGE

by Neal Pollard

Charles Mercer's short book, *The Way of Alexander the Great*, chronicles the path of this great king of Asia to world domination...

He had led his Macedonian army of less than 50,000 men from Iran to Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and now headed to India. By this time, they had covered almost 9,000 miles, including arduous treks over mountains and snow and unbearable heat. As they approached the Khyber Pass to enter India, Alexander noticed how slowly his troops were moving. While the terrain was partially to blame, the bigger culprit was "the staggering weight of the booty they had with them" (98). They were about to face "fierce mountain warriors" who would contest "nearly ever mile of their progress" (99).

Early one morning, Alexander did what must have been thought unthinkable. Mercer writes, "Alexander set fire to his own baggage wagon and then commanded that his soldiers' wagons be burned too. Surprisingly few men protested this action. Plutarch says that 'most of the soldiers, as if they had been inspired, uttering loud outcries and warlike shoutings, supplied one another with what was absolutely necessary and burn and destroyed all that was superfluous'" (ibid).

While Alexander was no doubt driven by conquering the world, he understood that anything that hindered that goal--no matter how seemingly valuable--must be discarded. His men eagerly followed his leadership, regarding the battle more important than the bounty. With the benefit of hindsight, we know that such decision-making led Alexander to indeed overcome all enemies.

Thoughts: Alexander, though far from a moral bastion, nonetheless illustrates the spiritual challenge confronting...

*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.

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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

...Christians living in this world. Paul teaches that God's people are in a spiritual battle with Satan and his dark forces (Eph. 6:10ff). It is a battle against forces equipped with "flaming arrows" (Eph. 6:16), "roaring lions" (1 Pet. 5:8) and formidable "schemes" (Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:11). In addition, we can be beset by our own lusts (cf. Js. 1:13-15). The writer of Hebrews adds that we can get burdened with encumbrances and entanglements (12:2). God has given us impenetrable spiritual armor to face the enemy's offensive, but we also may have to burn our baggage wagons. Whatever holds us back and keeps us from successfully navigating the narrow way is an ever-present hazard that may be everlastingly costly!

If only we will see what we stand to gain by shedding the weight of the world! We are not attempting world domination, like Alexander was. We are trying to overcome this world (1 John 5:4)! Are you prepared to keep only what is "absolutely necessary and burn and" destroy all that is superfluous? Do we need to burn some baggage wagons?

**Adapted from Mike Benson's KneEmail**

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## Heaven

Some words in the English language which actively suggest warmth are mother, father, home, and heaven. The word heaven (ouranos) is found 284 times in the Greek New Testament. Jesus taught the reality and beauty of heaven when he said, "Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in heaven..." (Matt. 5: 12).

Jesus went to prepare heaven. Jesus consoled his dejected disciples by telling them, "in my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (Jn. 14: 2, 3). Some believe this is an instance in which Jesus contradicted himself. Jesus did say, "...come...inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25: 34). I suggest that when Jesus speaks to his disciples of "preparing a place," he means in the sense of fulfilling all the requisites, his death, resurrection, and ascension, for instance.

The Christian's inheritance is in heaven. "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you," Peter stated (I Pet. 1: 4). We learn of heaven, the one hope, in the gospel or scriptures (Col. 1: 5, 23, Eph. 4: 4). Eternal life is presented as present and yet future (I Jn. 5: 11, Tit. 1: 2). Exactly speaking, eternal life is in heaven, the Christian's inheritance, but it is so certain (if we do our part) it is spoken of as an actual, present possession (by the figure of prolepsis).

Heaven shall be a place ideally suited for the saved. Heaven will be a spiritual place. "...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God," Paul wrote (I Cor. 15: 50). There will be a sweeping change from the physical to the spiritual (I Cor. 15: 51-58, 2 Cor. 5: 1 ff). This physical earth (present habitation) will be totally destroyed and there will be a new heavens and earth (spiritual habitation, 2 Pet. 3: 1-14).

Heaven will be a place free of death, tears, sorrows, and pain. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21: 4).

Perpetual life and beautiful, indescribable bliss will be enjoyed in heaven. Jesus promises, "...I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely" (Rev. 21: 6). The tree of life will be in heaven (Rev. 22: 2). All that is undesirable will be nonexistent in heaven, "And there shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it..." (Rev. 22: 3). The beauty of heaven is described in physical terms, I am convinced, for man's benefit (Rev. 21: 10 ff).

.... *Adapted*

<i>Sermon Review</i>	
<b>GOD'S FATHERS</b>	<b>MILE 2</b>
I. FATHERS WE DO NOT NEED II. FATHERS WE DO NEED	I. THE PRINCIPLE II. THE PERVERSION III. THE PERFECTION
(Adapted from Tom Moore's "Biblical Fathers")	

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Wiley & Betty Tuggle:** Wiley hurt his back again in assisting Betty after a fall.

**Nora Boling** is at home. Let's pray for her strength, health, and recovery.

**Rebecca Brown** & family.

**Tim II, Rachel, & Titus Wilkes** with full time mission work.

## Family & Friends

**Janie Brister**--Ruth's sister-in-law, has requested our prayers. She recently had a stint placed in one of her arteries. She has multiple other health problems, including lupus and fibromyalgia.

**Cathy Thompson**--has lupus.

**Luke Cantrell**--Andy's cousin, had a serious car accident, but is currently doing much better.

**Andy's grandmother**--had bypass surgery and doing well  
**Lajuan Collums**--Billy Bland's sister, having some testing done to determine if her cancer is back.

**Ray Maples**--undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia.

**James Angel**--Clifton's uncle; his cancer is back.

**Steve Angel**--Had surgery to remove the cancer from his kidney. He is doing well thus far.

**Carla Carlson; Leonard Family;**

**Scott McNeer; Trey Hanks; Waid Wilkes; Jimmy Young; Gloria Angel; Richard & Pat Allen; Wilton Wooten; Clay Collums; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg; Brianna Edwards; Steve Angel**

**Let us not forget to pray for the works being done through Fishers of Men, Far East Missions, and the Open Door Ministry.**

## June Anniversaries

Andy & Molly Ratliff	6/5
Caleb & Elizabeth Baker	6/8
Adam & Claire Sowell	6/25
Jeffrey & Amanda Ferrell	6/26
Jim & Mischel Jackson	6/28

## June Birthdays

Amanda Ferrell	6/3	Shane Staten	6/17
Melaney Ferrell	6/13	Emily Staten	6/20
Claire Sowell	6/15	Tammy Johnson	6/22
Henry Sowell	6/27		

## Get Involved!

**Independence VBS--June 27-29**

7:00-8:30PM Each Night, All Ages.

**Wednesday Night Singing--June 29**

7:00 PM--Last Wednesday of Each Month.

**Southaven VBS--June 10-13**

See flyer on bulletin board.

**Looxahoma VBS--July 11-13**

9 - 11:30 AM, Ages 4 yrs - 6th grade.

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, June 26

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeffrey Ferrell
Announcements	Jim Jackson
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jason Bayless
	Caleb Baker
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Johnny Bayless
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jeremy Moore

#### Evening

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Shane Staten
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jason Bayless
	Andy Ratliff
Closing Prayer	Wiley Tuggle

### Wednesday, June 29

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Ron Johnson