

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 1, 2012



PAUL'S PRAYERS FOR HIS FRIENDS

J.W. McGarvey

In my last address I called your attention to Paul's prayers for two churches—that at Thessalonica, which suffered severer persecution than any other of the churches that he planted; and the one at Rome, whose fame for faith and obedience had spread throughout the Roman empire. He prayed for these most fervently, mentioning both of them in every prayer. The same is true of the church at Philippi and the church at Corinth. We have his own words for his constant remembrance of these four churches in every prayer, naming them and offering, doubtless, for each such supplications as he knew they most needed. We have no right to suppose that these were the only churches of which he constantly made mention in his prayers. There was Berea, and Ephesus, and some others. He was a man of prayer, then, upon whom was laid the care of all the churches, mentioning all these congregations to the Lord in all his prayers. He was worthy of being entrusted with the "care of all the churches". And he who is worthy to be given the care of a single church can not too earnestly and too often pray for it.

But Paul did not confine this constant remembrance of others to congregations. He extended it also to individuals. He says to Timothy, "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience, how unceasing is my remembrance of thee in my supplications, night and day longing to see thee, remembering thy tears, that I may be filled with joy." He had left Timothy in a flood of tears when he last parted from him and those tears were constantly on his mind, and with that constant memory went up his petitions for that young man. And so in regard to Philemon, a man whom he had never seen so far as the record goes, but of whom he had heard much. He says, "I thank my God always, making mention of thee in my prayers, hearing of thy love and of the faith which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all the saints;" Such a man as that he...

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 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

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

...could not forget when he bowed his knees before God in prayer. Thus we see the mind and heart and memory of this praying man, loaded with the wants, the dangers, the necessities of a large number of persons. For if he prayed thus for Timothy and Philemon, what about Priscilla and Aquila, who once laid down their necks to save his life; or Epaphroditus, or any other of the heroes of the faith whom he loved with all his heart. and who were bound to him by cords of steel? Thus he prayed for the churches with which he was connected, and for individual saints both male and female whom he had known who were his fellow-servants, and whose names were written in the Book of Life. Not only so, but he did not falter in that precept which was taught in the sermon on the Mount-"Love your enemies." His own countrymen had caused his expulsion from Antioch and Iconium; and more recently from Thessalonica which he had to leave by night. They had also on five occasions stripped him of his garments and given him thirty-nine lashes on his naked back. If there ever was a people whom a man might hate, and whom any one of us would hate, it was the Jews in their dealings with Paul. But in the epistle to the Romans he makes a statement which would be unthinkable with common men, "I have great heaviness and unceasing sorrow in my heart: for I could wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." If he had said, "I have unceasing wrath in my heart," it would not have surprised us; and in the same epistle he says "My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they may be saved." Brethren, who is it in the church today that thus prays for those who hate him? He goes farther than even this. "I could even wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren's sake, my kinsmen according to the flesh:" He did not say, I wish it, but I could wish it. I think if he had said, I do wish it, he would have done wrong. I cannot think of myself as wishing my-self accursed from Christ for anyone, however near he might be related to me. It is possible that when he said he could wish this, he would have failed had he been put to the test. But those expressions show a devotional and self sacrificing spirit almost equal to that of the Christ himself.

When Paul reached the end of his pilgrimage you would naturally expect to read there some splendid prayers, but not a word of it. When he was ready to lay down his neck that the sharp sword of the executioner might sever his head from his body, he did not spend his last hours in prayer. He had reached the point where prayer is turned to praise, faith to sight and hope to full fruition. He says to Timothy, "The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing' So instead of spending his last hours in prayer, calling on faithful men to pray around his bed and comfort as we in our weakness often do, he left this world with a shout of triumph.

This now is the way in which this man of God passed through trials and sufferings at the hands of men, often at hands of those who should have been his friends, and gave up his life in the service of the master. I commend his character and his meditation for your imitation. The...

...more earnest your prayers for others, the more pleasing you will be in the sight of God. It is singular that in the record of his prayers you find him recording only one which he offered for his own personal welfare.

He had been so exalted by revelations from heaven, that it was necessary for him to receive an affliction which would be humiliating. He calls it a thorn in the flesh, an emissary of Satan to buffet him. To buffet means to smite you in the face. What could be more irritating than to have an enemy stand by you and frequently smite you in the face? And what could be more humiliating in the presence of others looking on? He says, Three times I have prayed God to remove this from me. That prayer was never answered. Paul says, "He said to me, My grace shall be sufficient for you." Instead of taking it away God gave him grace to bear it. And we are to suppose that he had to endure it to the day of his death He learned, however, to say, "When I am weak, then I am strong." And in this connection he makes a statement that is as incredible as that about the Jews. "I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake:" God gave him in answer to that prayer, not the relief for which he petitioned, but that strange feeling which relieves those who reach it by prayer from the pain of suffering and the shame of affliction, so that he no longer felt humiliated as he once did, but on the contrary, he says, "I take pleasure." What a strange pleasure! He took pleasure in afflictions which he had prayed God three times to relieve him from without being relieved. How great a soul was that! How unconquerable the spirit. How devoted to God, to Christ and to humanity ! Let him be your example next to the example of your Lord and Savior.

[Chapel Address No. 13 from
McGarvey's *Chapel Talks*]

This Week's Daily Bible Reading:

Sunday:	Psalms 90-95
Monday:	Psalms 96-102
Tuesday:	Psalms 103-105
Wednesday:	Psalms 106-107
Thursday:	Psalms 108-114
Friday:	Psalms 115-118
Saturday:	Psalms 119:1-88

Sermon Review

Keeping the Children from Jesus (Mark 10:13-16)

We can keep our children from Jesus by...

- I. Keeping Them from Training at Home
- II. Keeping Them from Worship with the Church
- III. Keeping Them from the Work of the Church

"What Doth Hinder Me to be Baptized?" (Acts 8:26-39, esp. 36)

- I. Lacking Understanding
- II. Having Unbelief
- III. Being Unrepentant
- IV. Being Unconfident

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Renee Davis was sick last week, but is doing better. **Tim Wilkes, II, Caleb Baker**, and their families here as they are doing mission work in the Philippines. **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**; Wiley has been experiencing iron complications with his blood. **Herbert & Helen Bowman**;

OpenDoor Ministry
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Gemma Winchester has stage 4 stomach cancer and is not doing well. **Hilton Jefferies**, newborn son of Robert & Blair Jeffries, had hole in his lung and has been in NICU since birth, but has progressed well enough to go home. **Carla Carlson**, the doctor has told her that her cancer has returned. **Matthew Canada** (5), has down syndrome, but was also diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. **Franklin Taylor**, friend of Daniel's, has cancer. **Eli Williams**, and his battle with cancer. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler; **Ray Maples**; **Wayne Collinsworth**; **Andrew Hagewood**; **Janie Brister**; **Chuck Tharp**; **Renee Loya**; **Aubree Harris**; **Virginia Mayfield**; **Peyton Harville**; **Bob Spurlin**; **David Bragg**.

July Birthdays

7/3 Ruth Brister	7/7 Bill Easley
7/4 Inez Neyman	7/13 Seth Daniel
7/4 Jimmy Sowell	7/14 Jason Bayless
7/5 Layla Johnson	7/19 Carson Kinney
7/6 Cali Bayless	7/22 Maira Davis
7/7 Aemon Ratliff	7/24 Jayce Brown

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets (Matt. 7:12)

Get Involved!

Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012

Let's continue to read and study together!!

Baby Shower for Amanda Ferrell -- Today

Between services; Necessities Only Requested

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- Today

Following PM service

Providence Place Devo -- July 8 -- 2 PM

Southaven VBS -- July 8-11

Independence VBS -- July 9-11

Nesbit VBS -- July 16-20

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, July 1

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Joe Owen
Announcements	Jerry Davis
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Ron Johnson
Assist	Andy Ratliff
	Jerry Davis
Opening Prayer	Seth Daniel
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Billy Bland

Evening

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Ron Johnson
Closing Prayer	Jason Bayless

Wednesday, July 4

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Jim Jackson
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Andy Ratliff