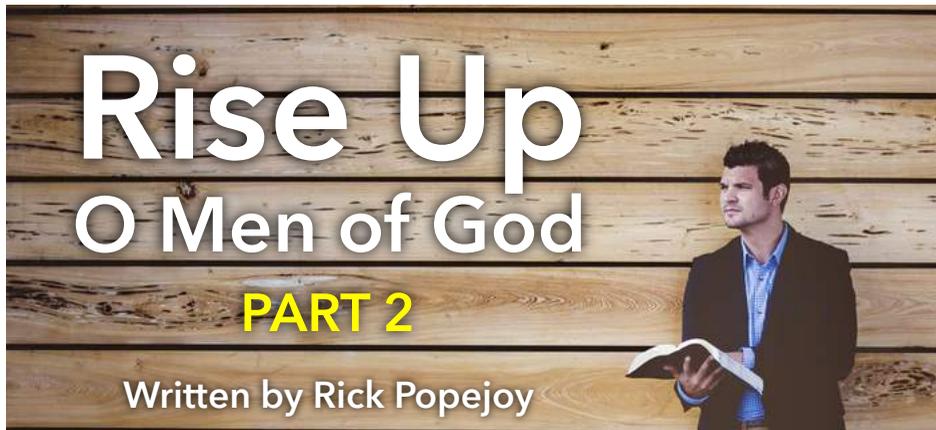


The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST July 7, 2019



Rise Up O Men of God

PART 2

Written by Rick Popejoy

Rise up, O men of God and follow after *godliness*. The word refers to reverence, respect; piety toward God, thus, godliness (1 Timothy 2:2; 4:7-8; 6:5-6). Consider the doctrine which is according to godliness (1 Timothy 6:3). The truth which is after godliness (Titus 1:1). And, the manifested mystery which is held by godliness and nourishes it (1 Timothy 3:16).

Rise up, O men of God and follow after *faith*. The word refers to conviction with the prominent idea of trust or confidence. The term demands knowledge, understanding and accomplishment. A person may know a certain truth and may even make a confession of such, but confidence is not said to be present until his actions reflect that truth. Thus, biblical faith is not fulfilled until obedience is manifested (cf. Hebrews 11).

Rise up, O men of God and follow after *love*. The word refers to the highest form of devotion. Agape love is a self-sacrificing, caring commitment that shows itself in seeking the highest good of the one loved (John 3:16; 13:34; 15:12-13; Eph. 5:1-2, 25; 1 John 4:9-10).

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 & fellowship for lunch every Sunday!

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell Chris Martin

Joe Owen Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II John Wofford

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

Rise up, O men of God and follow after *patience*. The word *longsuffering* (*hupomonein*) refers to the temper which does not easily succumb under suffering. It is opposed to cowardice or despondency. A man of God who lacks the courage to suffer long is not worth much. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power (cf. Romans 1:16), and of love (cf. 1 John 4:18), and of a sound mind (cf. Isaiah 1:18)" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Rise up, O men of God and follow after *meekness*. Nelson's Bible Dictionary defines meekness as... "an attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward men, springing from a recognition that God is in control. Although weakness and meekness may look similar, they are not the same. Weakness is due to negative circumstances, such as lack of strength or lack of courage. But meekness is due to a person's conscious choice. It is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness." Perhaps the last sentence is the best idea - strength or power under control. It is never weakness or fearfulness. The word (*praotes*) is used: to describe a soothing medicine; by sailors to describe a gentle breeze; by farmers to describe a broken colt. All three are examples of great power under control.

There are those in the church today who seek to rid language of militancy from our vocabulary and to redefine the mission of the church therein. Continuing our discussion of 1 Timothy 6:11-12, we desire to focus our attention upon the man of God **fighting the good fight of the faith**.

There is an unmistakably militant dimension to the Christian life. Paul tells us we should view ourselves as soldiers and be armed for battle (1 The. 5:8; 2 Cor. 6:7). He also calls on us to present ourselves for active duty (Rom. 6:13), and to seek out and destroy enemy installations (2 Cor. 10:3-5). Of course, this war is not physical, it is a spiritual battle to liberate people from spiritual forces of wickedness (Eph. 6:12; Col. 1:13). But it is a real war nonetheless - a war with real objectives, real wounds and casualties, real victories and defeats.

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This battle is a battle for the hearts, minds and souls of men (Luke 19:10). It is a battle against Secularism - the indifference to, rejection or exclusion of, spiritual considerations. It seeks to interpret life on principles taken solely from the material world, without the aid of God. It is a battle against Pluralism - an acceptance of the concept that two or more religions with mutually exclusive doctrines are equally valid. It is a battle against Post Modernism - which is characterized by broad skepticism, subjectivism, or relativism; with a general suspicion of reason. It is a battle against Atheistic evolution - evolution is the engine of atheism which is a belief that God does not exist.

All of the philosophy's above breed a battle against fleshly lust and the pride of life (1 Pet. 2:11-12; 1 Jho. 2:15-17). Make no mistake, this is a battle! Fleshly lust "destroys the moral liberty of the soul; It weakens and debilitates the soul by impairing its faculties; It robs the soul of its comfort and peace; It debases and destroys the dignity of the soul, hinders its present prosperity; It plunges the soul into everlasting misery." Rise up, O men of God and fight the good fight of faith.

With this text in mind, may I suggest four categories of men that develop around the pulpit. First there are those who flee and follow but refuse to fight; (2) Second, there are men who flee and fight but refuse to follow; Third, there are men who follow and fight but refuse to flee; and finally, there are men who flee, follow and fight.

One hears a lot of talk about balance, but only God can define true balance for the "man of God" and Paul reveals that definition for us in our text.

*But thou, O man of God, **flee** these things; and **follow** after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. **Fight** the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

Originally published in the Nesbit Bulletin
Part 1 published in our 6/30/19 Bulletin



NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Timothy Wilkes, Sr., recovering from eye surgery; **Clarence & Faye Edwards, Wiley Tuggle; Inez Neyman; Ginna Honeycutt; Seth Daniel; Sarah Norris; Sammy Williams; Elizabeth Baker.**

[Far East Missions](#)|[Fishers of Men](#)|[NetCasters](#)

Family & Friends

Lottie McMahan family, Betty's sister, passed last week; **Brenda Pounders family**, Ashley's aunt, recently passed; **Melissa McDaniel**, Tim M.'s sister; **Glenda Meredith**, Tim M.'s mother; **Doris Wilkes family; Junior Williams**, Sammy's brother; **Larry Scruggs; Phillip Vanwinkle**, young preacher with stage 4 cancer; **Iris Casteel; Don & Sheri Blackwell and family**, rehab at Shepherd's Center; **Tabby Jenkins and her family**, continue in need of our prayers.

Birthdays

7/2	Noah Davis	7/7	Aemon Ratliff
7/3	Ruth Brister	7/9	Olivia Wofford
7/3	Marc Strickland	7/13	Seth Daniel
7/4	Inez Neyman	7/14	Jason Bayless
7/4	Jimmy Sowell	7/31	Porter Ferrell
7/6	Cali Bayless		

Anniversaries

7/3	Sammy & Grace Williams
7/11	Chris & Billie Martin
7/14	Clifton & Lara Angel
7/23	Tyler & Katherine King
7/26	Michael & Terri Sykes

Get Involved!

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior: TODAY
Between services

Independence VBS: July 8 – 10, 7 PM

Nesbit VBS: July 8 – 12, 7 PM

Youth Devo @ Ratliff's: July 12, 6 PM

Providence Place Devo: July 14, 2 PM

POWER Youth Rally: July 19 – 20

POWER Lectures: July 21 – 25

Panama Mission: July 19 – 26

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, July 7

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jerry Davis
Announcements	Jason Bayless
Song Leader	Noah Davis
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Chris Martin
	Tim Meredith
Assist	Bodie Meredith
	Mika Meredith
Opening Prayer	John Wofford
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Russel Wadsworth

Afternoon

Song Leader	Noah Davis
Opening Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Tim Meredith
	Bodie Meredith
Closing Prayer	Billy Bland

Wednesday, July 10

Song Leader	Noah Davis
Prayer	Jason Bayless
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

TECH:	Daniel Owen
HALL:	Jim & Mischel Jackson