

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 8, 2012



## UNITY IN THE CHURCH

by Garrett McGilvray

The night before Jesus was to be crucified, he prayed first for those disciples who would carry on the mission for which he had been training them, then secondly for all those throughout the ages who would believe in him through their teachings. For this latter group, of which we are a part, Jesus prayed “that they all may be one, as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me” (John 17:21).

Jesus’s desire for his church that he promised to build (Matt. 16:18) was for its unity. The superabundance of different churches that today exist make painfully clear that those who claim to be Jesus’s followers have failed in this goal. Some explain away this grave discrepancy by saying that though the many churches differ on their teaching, yet they are united in the common goal of showing the love of Jesus to a lost world. Yet the kind of unity Jesus prayed for was to be like that which he himself shared with his Father. “Agreeing to disagree” hardly comes close to that divine unity. Paul made even more clear the kind of unity to which we are called when he noticed the first signs of division in the church at Corinth: “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10).

We can accomplish this goal only by putting aside all man-made doctrines, creeds, and traditions in favor of following God’s will as expressed in his word as our only authority in religion. Inasmuch as we will all speak in accordance with what God has spoken to us, we will all be speaking the same thing, and so arrive at the unity Christ so desired.

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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 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

# UNITY -- AT WHAT PRICE?

*by Billy Bland*

There is no doubt but that God desires for His people to have unity. Just prior to Christ leaving earth and going back to heaven, He prayed; "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). This prayer was fulfilled just a few weeks later on the day of Pentecost. The record states; "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). Later, when the church at Corinth began to divide and split into various parties, Paul wrote; "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10). This same apostle wrote to the Ephesians; "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

But, does God want His people to have unity at the expense of truth? If you read the above scriptures again (Jn.17:20-21, I Cor.1:10, Eph.4:3), you will see that God's unity is based upon truth. Unity was maintained by following God's word, all speaking the same thing, and it is the "unity of the Spirit". Therefore, when a congregation does not hold to the truth there can be no scriptural unity.

The same Bible that commands unity also commands some division. Jesus himself said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household" (Matthew 10:34-36). By following the teaching of Jesus there will be some division! In fact, if one compromises the truth in order to get along with his family, Jesus says he is not worthy of him - "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" (Matthew 10:37). Paul, (the same apostle that spoke for unity), would not give place by subjection to the false teacher "no not for an hour" (Gal. 2:5).

Some, today, have the misconception that Bible unity is just to "join in with us and ignore the error". They want to teach false doctrines or bring in false teachers and then say "come on, join in". Some have even gotten to the point where they are now saying that unless God **specifically** condemns some sin, then we cannot condemn such. Can you imagine the size of a book that one would have to have in order to condemn every specific sin? One would need a wheel-barrel just to carry it around. But some are saying that God's word must specifically say something is wrong before we can condemn such. They then, of course, would apply such reasoning to mechanical instrumental music in worship, solos or choirs in worship, etc. Now, if you...

...this person, he would say; "Oh, I'm opposed to such, but I will have to admit that God doesn't specifically condemn it". These people completely ignore such passages as Colossians 3:17 - "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him". We can only practice that which we can do "in the name of the Lord". Everything else is an addition to God's word - **and that is sin!** (Rev. 22:18-19). How far are the advocates of "it must be specifically condemned", willing to go? Where does the Bible specifically condemn adding roast, lamb, or steak to the Lord's Supper? Would they fellowship those that would do such a thing? If not, would they condemn the practitioners of it? To what scripture would they appeal that specifically condemns the use of roast, lamb, or steak at the Lord's Supper?

The simple truth is - we are allowed only that which is authorized by God. Everything else is sin. John wrote; "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (II John 1:9).

Unity is indeed a precious thing - "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

We are to be for unity. However, so-called "unity" is not to be had at the expense of truth. People who teach false doctrine or uphold those that do, should not expect God's people to abandon truth in order to fellowship them in their error. If all will give up error and/or upholding those that teach error and all walk in the light as He is in the light (I Jn.1:7), then the "unity of the Spirit" will follow. May we pray to that end.

### **This Week's Daily Bible Reading:**

Sunday: Psalms 119:89-176  
Monday: Psalms 120-132  
Tuesday: Psalms 133-139  
Wednesday: Psalms 140-145  
Thursday: Psalms 146-150  
Friday: Proverbs 1-3  
Saturday: Proverbs 4-6

### *Sermon Review*

#### **The Road Less Traveled** (Matt. 7:13, 14)

- I. Free Will
- II. Fully aWare
- III. Fore Warning

#### **"A Memorable Fourth of July"** (John 8:31, 32; *Leipzig Debate of 1519*)

- I. Recognize the problem.
- II. Desire Freedom from the problem.
- III. Take a Stand for that Freedom.

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Tim Wilkes, Sr. & Tim Wilkes, II** as they travel on different trips this week.

**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

**Sigman Family**, we express sympathy in the loss of Dale Sigman; Dale was Leigh's 2nd cousin. **Jimmy Holden**, dying, has multiple healthy problems including cancer. **Lauren Jackson**, had a tumor removed from her foot, awaiting results. **Joy Angel**, Clifton's older sister, has been experiencing some serious pain in her feet, possible circulatory problems. **Gemma Winchester** has stage 4 stomach cancer and is not doing well. **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; **Hilton Jefferies**; **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   |

## Get Involved!

### **Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012**

Let's continue to read and study together!!

**Providence Place Devo -- Today -- 2 PM**

**Southaven VBS -- July 8-11**

**Independence VBS -- July 9-11**

"Jesus Loves Me This I Know"

7:00 - 8:30 each night

**Nesbit VBS -- July 16-20**

7:00 - 8:30 each night

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, July 8

#### Morning

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Prayer Before Class | Joe Owen        |
| Announcements       | Billy Bland     |
| Song Leader         | Andy Ratliff    |
| Lord's Supper:      |                 |
| Preside             | Jason Bayless   |
|                     | Seth Daniel     |
| Assist              | Daniel Owen     |
|                     | Payton Jackson  |
| Opening Prayer      | Caleb Baker     |
| Sermon              | Clifton Angel   |
| Closing Prayer      | Jeffrey Ferrell |

#### Evening

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Song Leader    | Andy Ratliff   |
| Opening Prayer | Jared Brown    |
| Sermon         | Clifton Angel  |
| Lord's Supper  | Jason Bayless  |
|                | Payton Jackson |
|                | Ron Johnson    |
| Closing Prayer |                |

### Wednesday, July 11

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Song Leader | Andy Ratliff  |
| Prayer      | Jim Jackson   |
| Invitation  | Clifton Angel |
| Prayer      | Jerry Davis   |