

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST July 12, 2020



A problem that each one of us as Christians face at one time or another, a problem that has been around since the establishment of the church, is the problem of a weakened love for Christ. This problem results from family crisis, various diseases, the death of a loved one despite our fervent prayers and crying out to God, different forms of persecution, or watching as a respected Christians loses his faith in God.

As Christians we will experience problems that will cause our love for Christ to fail.

Our faith and love for Christ are tied together as one. If you lose your faith, love is weakened and vice versa. The song, "When My Love for Christ Grow Weak" says this, "See His anguish, see His faith, Love triumphant still in death." Love

*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

## DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell JoeOwen

Andy Ratliff Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

## PREACHER

Clifton Angel

can be restored and faith can be strengthened if we would just dwell on the sacrificial love of Christ.

Since love is strengthened by increasing our faith in Christ, notice Revelation 2. The church in Ephesus had done well in many areas. They were hard working, patient, upright (they hated evil), noble minded (tested the claims of false prophets), they knew how to deal with evil men, and rather than growing weary, they persevered and had endurance (3). But they had one major issue...their love for Christ had grown weak.

Verse 4 tells us they were living the life of a Christian, but totally devoid of love. The Ephesians were doing a lot of good things, but out of obligation and duty rather than being properly motivated by a love for Christ. While they appeared to be righteous on the surface, they had no relationship with God. They were going through the motions but it was all done without love.

Sadly this is a problem that many face in the church today. They experience hardship and lose their love. They continue to live as a Christian out of duty and because it's the "right thing to do." Since the Ephesians fell into the same rut that we too can sometimes struggle with, it's beneficial for us to look at what they were told to do in order to restore their relationship with Christ.

The solution is threefold. So let's notice what we must do "when our love for Christ grows weak."

**Remember where you came from (Rev. 2:5).** When our love for Christ grows weak, what must we do? Remember why you made the decision to become a Christian. Remember where you came from. A life filled with sin. A life devoid of hope. A time when you couldn't call God your father. Remember the blessings of baptism. The sin that was wiped away. The relationship that was established with God, through Christ. Remember what you felt the moment you came out of the waters of baptism. The joy and relief in knowing that God now calls you HIS child. "When my love to Christ grows weak, When for ...

... deeper faith I seek, Then in thought I go to thee, Garden of Gethsemane." Remember what makes our Christianity a reality. Remember what it cost for God to forgive your sin.

**Repent (Rev. 2:5).** *Metanoeson* means "to change ones mind." I want you to picture yourself in your car, you're headed to lunch with the perfect restaurant picked out. As you're getting closer, your wife says, "I'd rather go to Chick Fil A. Step 1, your wife has changed her mind about where she wants to eat. And so...Step 2, you turn the car around, you change directions and head to Chick Fil A...making the right call to keep your wife happy. That, is repentance. "A change of mind that leads to a change of direction." The Ephesians were told to first, remember where they came from, and then to repent. Change direction, go back to a time when they had both good deeds and a love for a christ. A change of mind, from heartless service to love filled devotion.

**Return and "Do the things you did at first" (Rev. 2:5).** When Our Love For Christ Grows Weak, return to the way we were living before sin ruined our relationship with God. We must confess (admit the wrong) to God, and to each other (James. 5:17). Acknowledge the presence of sin. And change, even if it costs us. Each one of us can remember the times where our Christianity was strong and growing, but since we are human, it's easy to become:

Complacent (feeling satisfied with where we are, with no motivation to grow or change).

Depressed (with current circumstances or personal trials).

Distracted (by work, family, hobbies, friends).

Emotionless (feeling so overwhelmed with sin that we just give up, lose hope).

There's a cure for each one of these problems. Remember Christ. Dwell on the love that God has for each one of us.

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Seth & Jan Daniel**, on top of cancer treatments, Seth may have had a mini-stroke; **Janice Dixon**, back injury; **Marc Strickland & family**, lost a family member last week; **Amanda Lyons**; **Wiley Tuggle**; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**; **Sammy Williams**; **Inez Neyman**.

## Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters

## Family & Friends

**Johnny Freeman & family**, friend to Meredith's, 6-yr-old son Noah died; **Kathy Gullede**, David Gullede's mom, returned cancer, taking chemo; **Bill Easley**, back surgery scheduled July 14; **Dominic Rosado**, Monica's uncle, health complications; **Betty Culbreath**, health complications; **Paul Perkins**, Mischel's father; **Waid Wilkes**, in rehab after bad fall; **Judy Huitt**, recovering from bypass surgery; **David Pippin**, several serious health problems; **Zack Jackson**, Jim's nephew; **Carleigh Miller**; **Martha Williams**, Amanda Lyon's grandmother, dementia.

## Anniversaries

7/3 Sammy & Grace Williams  
7/14 Clifton & Lara Angel  
7/26 Michael & Terri Sykes

## *Birthdays*

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

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, July 12

### *Morning*

Prayer Before Class	Jeffrey Ferrell
Announcements	Jim Jackson
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	John Wofford
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper: Preside	Billy Bland

Assist

Closing Prayer

Andy Ratliff

### *Afternoon*

Song Leader  
Opening Prayer  
Sermon  
Lord's Supper

**TEMPORARILY  
CANCELLED**

Closing Prayer

Wednesday, July 15

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Jim Jackson
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Tim Wilkes II

TECH:  
HALL:

Dalton Owen