

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST August 9, 2020



THE SIMPLE GOSPEL

Written by Charles Harris

"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" (Ephesians 3:1-4).

We live during a time when many confusing teachings are being broadcast throughout the world. It is such a blessing to have the simple gospel of Christ. The Gospel of Christ is a message that can be understood and followed with confidence.

The Gospel must be simple because it is to be preached to every creature. When Jesus sent out the apostles, they were sent to take the Gospel to every person (Mark 16:15) of every nation (Mat. 28:19). Certainly if the Gospel is to be preached to every creature it must be simple. If the Gospel is not simple, and cannot be understood, then it would do no good to preach it.

Another reason why the Gospel must be simple is because it is to be believed. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

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

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Janos Bayless

Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell

JoeOwen

Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

It plainly says those that "believe not" shall be damned. Would it be right and fair to damn a man for what he cannot understand? Dear reader, the Lord has given us His Word, we are instructed to believe it, and if we do not we will be damned.

Let's note a few evidences that show the Gospel is meant to be understood. First, what is said about the church is simple. The Lord himself said, "That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mat. 16:18). Christ said, "I will build my church." I ask, whose church is this? Is it Luther's, Wesley's, John's, or any other man's? You say, "No!" You are absolutely correct. Why do you say, "No"? Because Christ said "I will build my church." It is His! He purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28), and it wears His name (Rom. 16:16).

We learn further that there is only one church, which is the Lord's body. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). "And he is the head of the body, the church" (Col.1:18). "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling" (Eph. 4:4). The body is the church and there is one body, therefore, there must of necessity be just one church. That does away with the idea of "the church of your choice" and settles once and for all that it is the church of Christ's choice.

Next we learn that we are baptized into that one body. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (1 Cor. 12:13). How do we get into the one body? We are baptized into it. Isn't that simple? The body is the church and we are baptized into the body, therefore, we enter into the church through baptism.

What is said about baptism is simple. We find that it is a burial in water. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:3-4). "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your

flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses" (Col. 2:12-13). Isn't that simple? If it is a burial it cannot be a sprinkling or pouring. What do you do when you bury someone in the ground? What do you do when you bury someone in the watery grave of baptism?

Further we learn that baptism is for believing penitents, not babies. Infant baptism is without scriptural authority. The subject for baptism is to believe. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). The subject for baptism is to repent of his sins. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). I ask you, can an infant believe? Is he capable of doing that? Can an infant repent of his sins? Does he have any sins to repent of? The answers are very simple, and when you answer these questions you will find the proper subjects for baptism will not be infants.

Last of all, baptism is to save. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us" (1 Pet. 3:21).

The Gospel of Christ is simple. One does not have to be a college graduate to understand how to go to heaven. In our preaching of the Gospel, let us always remember to keep it simple, and easy to be understood. If we fail in this we have failed altogether, because if people cannot understand they cannot obey, and if they do not obey they are lost (2 The. 1:7-9).

Brethren, let us go back to the Bible. Let us determine "not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). Men can comprehend that God sent His Son to die on Calvary's cross for the remission of our sins. They can love Him enough to believe in Him and obey Him. Souls will be won to Jesus Christ, the church will grow, and God will be praised.

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Joe Owen & family, he tested positive for coronavirus; **Seth Daniel family**; **Wiley Tuggle**; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**; **Sammy Williams**; **Inez Neyman**.

Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters

Family & Friends

Leah Savage & family, Lara's mom, coronavirus; **Loretta Newton**, Joe's aunt, leukemia; **Mac Easley**, rehab; **Chastidy Collums family**, young mother to Jamie Cagle's grandson Dallas, recently passed from cancer; **Axel Holliday**, Ginger's co-worker's grandson, newborn in need of surgery; **Bill Easley**; **Paul Perkins**; **Kathy Gullede**, David Gullede's mom, returned cancer, taking chemo; **Dominic Rosado**, Monica's uncle; **Betty Culbreath**; **Martha Williams**.

Anniversaries

- 8/1 Terry & Dana Davis
8/1 John & Suzanne Wofford
8/5 Tim II & Rachel Wilkes
8/17 Tim & Monica Meredith

Birthdays

- 8/4 Terry Davis
8/6 Monica Meredith
8/9 Xander Cagle
8/10 Larry Campbell
8/14 Lily Wilkes

Birthdays (continued)

- 8/15 Carolyn Davis
8/16 Clifton Angel
8/17 Dana Davis
8/25 Addi Bayless
8/26 Jim Jackson
8/28 Jerry Davis
8/30 Hannah Davis
8/31 Kara Strickland

Youth Devo at Williams': Aug 22

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, August 9

Morning

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Prayer Before Class | Billy Bland |
| Announcements | Jerry Davis |
| Song Leader | Noah Davis |
| Opening Prayer | Jason Bayless |
| Sermon | Clifton Angel |
| Lord's Supper: | |
| Preside | Jim Jackson |

Assist

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| Closing Prayer | Andy Ratliff |
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Afternoon

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| Song Leader | |
| Opening Prayer | |
| Sermon | |
| Lord's Supper | |

**TEMPORARILY
CANCELLED**

Closing Prayer

Wednesday, August 12

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| Song Leader | Noah Davis |
| Prayer | Jerry Davis |
| Invitation | Clifton Angel |
| Prayer | Tim Meredith |

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| TECH: | Davis Johnson |
| HALL: | |