

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Aug 31, 2014



From the Elders:

Our PM service today will be at 12:30 instead of 1:00. This is to accommodate the schedule of brother Chris Herd and his family.

Bitterness Should Not Be Found in the Lives of Christians (PART 1)

Sadly bitterness is even able to influence the life of a Christian if one's heart is not guarded against it. Bitterness proves to be one of the most crushing mental problems in a person's life. When a Christian is bitter, there is a loss of close fellowship with the Lord and a hindrance in one's relationships with the brethren. Bitterness separates one from the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have seen the unsavoury effects of bitterness in brethren and the implications of such. It seems that those who are overcome by it fail to see any fault in themselves but busy their minds and time with digging for dirt on others. Bitterness is a very closely related emotion to hatred and the Bible teaches that this will place one in darkness and self deception (1 John 2:9). It is irrational to conclude that whilst harbouring bitterness and seeking the downfall of brothers and sisters in Christ, that one could honestly believe that they are okay with the Lord.

Bitterness causes a loss of many of the blessings of the normal Christian life, including emotional stability, peace, and joy. The sin of bitterness results in the loss of production of good works in those who are bitter and consequently in those who are at the receiving end of it. If brethren are bitter they will find that they sit and maliciously gossip with those who are willing to do the same, and in doing this feel a sense of justification. The result is as has already been stated, the loss of production of good works.

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
each Sunday at 12:30

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

Joe Owen Tim Wilkes, II

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

Bitterness is a devastating mental attitude sin, and it triggers a wide range of other sins, such as: Hatred, cruelty, antagonism, self-pity, impossibility to learn and be taught, vindictiveness and desires for revenge and last but not least, prideful ambition (arrogance). Bitterness is neither consistent nor rational. A bitter person is his own worst enemy. It is very difficult to maintain any kind of relationship with a chronically bitter person(s); and bitterness is a major contributing cause of marital, family and yes, as we have seen, even church problems.

The objective in this short article is to provide Christians with a thorough look at what the Bible says about bitterness, including many Scripture examples. Only a person who is willing to accept sound counsel that the Word of God provides will be receptive and inviting of change.

In English, the concept of mental bitterness comes from the idea of something that has a sharp or unpleasant taste. We speak of something being bitter if it causes grief or is hard to bear; "a bitter defeat", "bitter failure". We also speak of a "bitter loss" when someone's death has caused great grief. As you will agree, none of these thoughts are desirable or wholesome.

The terms associated with bitterness are used of those things that cause pain or grief, such as "bitter remarks" or the actions of "bitter enemies." We say "he fought to the bitter end", meaning a struggle in the last extremity. Certainly these terms or any such terms should not be in the life of the Christian.

The Biblical Greek words for PIKROS = "bitter" and PIKRIA = "bitterness", and other derivatives. PIKROS originally meant "sharp", or "pointed". Then it was used more generally for anything that was penetrating to the senses, something that had a pervasive smell or a "shrill" noise.

PIKRIA was used for the bitterness of the taste of some plants, and finally found use in speaking of personal experience when something was unpleasant, undesirable, or when something bad was unexpected.

The words PIKROS or PIKRIA are used about 40 times in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament), only rarely to refer to literal bitterness, such as the reference to "bitter" water in Exodus 15:23. Usually it is a reference to men who are (pikroi) "the bitter ones" when they are soured or cruel (Ruth 1:20; Habakkuk 1:6).

NEW TESTAMENT OCCURANCES: There are seven instances of these words in the New Testament: Matthew 26:75; Luke 22:62; Acts 8:23; Romans 3:14; Ephesians 4:31; James 3:11, 14.

So, in the Bible, except when it is obvious that the actual taste of something is meant, PIKRIA refers to intensity of suffering of mind and body, something that is difficult to bear, something that causes animosity and reaction, something that is brought about by hatred or antagonism.

Women are bitter because they cannot have children, 1 Samuel 1:10. A foolish son is bitterness to his mother, Proverbs 17:25. Divine discipline (chastisement) of the Jewish people caused bitterness. This demonstrates the weakness and failure of the people. Bitterness destroyed the people's spiritual lives. The Jews brought on self-destruction by their bitterness. Lamentations 1:4; Amos 8:10; Ezekiel 27:30; Isaiah 33:7; 2 Kings 14:26. Slavery causes bitterness, Exodus 1:14.3. Suffering causes bitterness to people ...

... who do not understand problem solving devices, principles, and give number one priority to relationship with God. Deuteronomy 32:24.

Ridicule is a source of bitterness, Lamentations 3:14. The people ridiculed Jeremiah because of their bitterness toward him. When truth is taught, people react in bitterness. Consummate human pride is a cause of bitterness, Acts 8:23.

Degeneracy is a source of bitterness, Romans 3:14. Cosmic involvement is a source of bitterness, Ephesians 4:31. Husbands and wives are a source of bitterness toward each other, Colossians 3:19. Bitterness is antisocial. A bitter person is selfish, inconsiderate of others, withdrawn from society, indifferent or adverse to conformity with conventional standards of social behaviour. Even strangers avoid bitter people, Proverbs 14:10. No one is happy around bitter people. Bitterness is a sign of the fragmented life, Jeremiah 2:19. A bitter person rejects Bible teaching. James 3:14, "But if you have bitter jealousy and strife, stop being arrogant and lying against the truth." Bitterness shows total lack of grace orientation. A bitter person does not understand the Plan of God, let alone how it affects individuals. In Job 9:17-18, Job's complaint against God. "Why does God let this happen to me", is a statement of bitterness. Bitterness accompanies the sin unto death, Job 21:25. Bitterness motivates complaining; Job 7:11, 10:1. People who habitually complain are bitter people; they have no self esteem. Bitterness motivates gossip, Psalm 64:3. Bitterness fragments other people's lives. Hebrews 12:15 "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by it many be defiled."

Bitterness is self induced misery, and it produces chain sinning. Bitterness is misery to others in the periphery. But two wrongs never make a right. You cannot build your happiness on someone else's unhappiness.

Brethren, the Bible teaches a very simple principle to apply when we are considering our lives together, but sadly we see the opposite exemplified in the church at times.

–written by Chris Herd
Part 2, next week

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

1. September 20: Bible Bowl -- 4 PM
2. September 27: Memphis Zoo Trip
For all ages!
3. October 11: Trade Days Booth
Also for all ages!

Sermon Review

JESUS: FAR GREATER THAN MOSES

(Hebrews 1:1–3)

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|---------------------|----------------------|
| I. His Message | V. His Manifestation |
| II. His Inheritance | VI. His Providence |
| III. His Power | VII. His Sacrifice |
| IV. His Perfection | VIII. His Majesty |

God: Worthy of Our Worship

(Psalm 100)

- I. Because He is God (v. 1, 3)
- II. Because He is Good (v. 5)
- III. That is Great (Glad & Grateful) (v. 2, 4)

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Leigh Owen, recovering from foot surgery; **Wiley Tuggle**, at home recovering from surgery; **Jared Brown**, recovering from emergency gall bladder surgery; **Payton Jackson**, knee injury; **Seth Daniel**, stomach bug & taking medication equivalent to chemo; Several have had stomach bug over last couple of weeks; **Betty Tuggle**; **Helen Bowman**.

NetCasters
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Powell Family, lost their only son Joey to a heart attack the week before last, the lost their only daughter 4 years ago and Terry Parrish is their niece; **Allen Bulla**, Rebecca's dad, ICU; **Jason Spencer**, kidney complications, receiving dialysis; **Family of Howard Boling**, Ruth's cousin; **Janet Colvett**, will have to have complete round of chemo treatment again during month of September; **Dean Bland**, Billy's brother; **Terry Adams Parrish**, suffered major injuries from a fall from horseback; **Sherry Hillam**, Betty Duke's daughter; **Ray Hendrix**, lymphoma; **Carole Livsey**, Clifton's aunt, lymphoma; **Charles Savage**, recovering from cancer treatment; **Trent Childers**; **Amanda Cummings**, young mother with cancer; **Danielle Key**, young mother with cancer; **Andy's grandmother**; **Carla Carlson**; **Janie Brister**; **Ava Roten**, **Brett Rutherford**; **Frankie Burfield**, cancer; **Jack Higginbotham**; **Tasha Higginbotham**; **Lauren Harrell**, breast cancer; **James Cooper**, Jan's brother, cancer; **Marie Sims**; **Renee Loya**, Parkinson's, MS, & dystonia; **Eli Williams**, receiving treatments for cancer; **Ray Maples**; **John & Anita Simpson**; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, cancer; **Virginia Johnson**, lung cancer; **Joy Angel**; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**.

Birthdays

8/10	Larry Campbell	8/21	Sue Cobern
8/15	Carolyn Davis	8/25	Addi Bayless
8/16	Clifton Angel	8/26	Jim Jackson
8/19	Helen Bowman	8/28	Jerry Davis
8/19	Ron Johnson		

Anniversaries

8/2	Jared & Rebecca Brown
8/5	Tren & Toranda House
8/6	Tim II & Rachel Wilkes
8/18	Ron & Anna Johnson

Get Involved!

5th Sunday Services -- TODAY

Chris Herd, preacher from Australia, now working in New Zealand, to preach AM & present about his work in PM

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- Sep 7 Between Services

Providence Place Devo -- Sep 14 -- 2 PM

Bible Bowl -- Sep 20 -- 4 PM Genesis 34 – 36

Coldwater Gospel Meeting -- Oct 19 – 22 Wayne Rodgers preaching Theme: "His Grace Reaches Me"

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, August 31

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Billy Bland
Announcements	Andy Ratliff
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jim Jackson
	Chris Martin
Assist	Will Brooks
	Jerry Davis
Opening Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Sermon	Chris Herd
Closing Prayer	Jeremy Moore

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Johnny Bayless
Sermon	Chris Herd
Lord's Supper	Joe Owen
	Dalton Owen
Closing Prayer	Jerry Davis

Wednesday, September 3

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Tim Wilkes, II
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Johnny Bayless