

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oct. 16, 2011



“Jesus Loves Me”

by Clifton Angel

*Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.*

*Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me;
Yes, Jesus loves me;
Yes, Jesus loves me;
The Bible tells me so.*

We often call it a children’s song, and certainly it is a favorite of the children. However, let us direct our minds to the necessity of such a song in the life of every adult as well.

At least 7 very important factors can be found within the first stanza and chorus:

1. The song **teaches** (Col. 3:16).
2. The song encourages **confidence in knowledge** (*This I know*).
3. It references the Bible as **authority** (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
4. It references the importance of **studying** the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15).
5. It encourages **humility** (James 4:10).
6. It encourages **trust in Jesus** (Phil. 4:13).
7. It encourages **positive thinking** (Phil. 4:8).

The principles found within this “children’s song” definitely need to be applied to the life of every adult; and furthermore, every adult should endeavor to teach them to their children.

Most of “Christendom” would agree that Jesus loves us; however, many do not know how we love him:

If you love me, you will keep my commandments (John 14:15).

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
5:00 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

“Honey, It’s Time We Cut Our Contribution”

by Cliff Goodwin

It is unfortunate that, in the present economy, the above words are likely being spoken in a number of Christian homes. Times are hard, indeed. Cutbacks and layoffs have affected many families who work in manufacturing and retail sectors. Contractors and business owners have likewise suffered the effects of an economic slowdown. All of this means that there is generally less money to go around, and in many instances less money is going to the Lord as well.

Before proceeding any further, please allow me to make something crystal clear: there may very well come a time in which a Christian family is forced to reduce the amount of their weekly contribution to the Lord’s church. However, something else needs to be equally clear: the family contribution should not be the first thing cut when budgetary reductions are necessitated. Let’s take an honest look at some considerations both scriptural and practical.

First, Christians are to give based on their prosperity, or how much they make. Paul wrote by inspiration, “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come,” (1 Cor. 16:2). Naturally, then, when a Christian makes more money, he ought to give more; when a Christian makes less money, he may give less. This is all very straightforward. However, there is a practical observation often overlooked at this juncture. If and when contribution cutbacks are necessitated by the reduction of income, the amount of the cutback should be in proportion to the amount of income lost. For example, a family that loses 10% of its gross income may very well have to reduce the amount of their weekly contribution. Nonetheless, such a reduction should be no more than 10% of what they were giving previously. To cut the family contribution more than 10% in such a scenario would be disproportionate and would essentially mean that the family is using part of their contribution to cover shortfalls in other budgetary areas. Some families give no thought to cutting their contributions 25% or more, when their actual income reductions may be only 10 or 15%. “My brethren, these things ought not so to be!”

Second, Christians are to put God first in their finances, as in every other facet of life. This principle was demonstrated under the Old Testament by the offering of the firstfruits. “Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine,” (Prov. 3:9-10). God, and our devotion to God, must be the priority of our lives. Jesus clearly emphasized this fact. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,” (Matt. 6:33). “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment,” (Matt. 22:37-38).

When God is truly first in our lives, such will be manifested in our giving. Like the Macedonians of old, we first give ourselves, and then our possessions naturally follow. “For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely...

...willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God,” (2 Cor. 8:3-5, NKJV).

Let us now consider a practical observation in regard to this second Biblical principle. If God is first in our lives, shouldn't our contributions be the last items cut in our budgets? We live in an age that is filled with so many extras. In fact, there are many instances in which we have deemed various extras as “indispensable.” Most families today have at least two cell phones—many families have more. Few families rely on the old UHF antenna for television anymore. Such has been replaced by either cable or satellite service. Both wireless phone service and satellite television programming come in varying plans and packages—all at different costs. When a family's income is reduced, shouldn't cutbacks first be made in the areas of some of these “extras,” instead of the family contribution? A family truly desiring to put God first will seek to “cut all the fat” they can, before reducing their weekly offering to the Lord. The way we sometime treat God is astonishing. God blesses with every good and perfect gift (James 1:17), richly giving us all things to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17). Then, when hard times come upon us, or reverses are encountered, the first thing to be cut is our contribution! Once again, “My brethren, these things ought not so to be!”

A Special Thanks

1. To all who helped with our Trade Days booth.
2. To all who helped with our hosting the Bible Bowl.
3. To our children who studied and participated in the Bible Bowl.
4. To all who participated in the Providence Place devotional.

Sermon Review

God's “Hates” in the Midst of His Love

(Matthew 26 & 27)

- I. A Heart that Devises Wicked Imaginations (26:1-5).
- II. He that Soweth Discord among Brethren (26:14-16, 20-25).
- III. A False Witness that Speaketh Lies (26:57-61).
- IV. A Proud Look (26:62-68).
- V. A Lying Tongue (26:69-75).
- VI. Feet that be Swift in Running to Mischief (27:1-2, 15-23).
- VII. Hands that Shed Innocent Blood (27:24-31, 35).

The Godhead

(Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9)

- I. *God is One.*
- II. *Three are God.*
- III. *Understanding God is One while Three are God.*

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Wiley & Betty Tuggle.

Tim II, Rachel, & Titus Wilkes are in the Philippines.

Let us not forget to pray for the works being done through Fishers of Men, Far East Missions, and the Open Door Ministry.

Family & Friends

Renee Loya, (cousin of Elizabeth Baker), has MS and has reached the stage in which she cannot walk.

Wes, brother of Deb Peeler (Nicci Leonard's mom), has been diagnosed with cancer.

Norman & Brenda Mahan, tragic motorcycle accident. They are from Southaven but are in a NC hospital.

Linda Lentz, recovering from double bypass surgery.

Charles Easley, Molly's grandfather, is in the hospital with multiple health problems.

Allen Beech's daughter, (Allen is a friend to Andy), she tried to commit suicide. She has children and definitely needs our prayers.

Jeff Nichols -- on breathing machine, not doing well.

Carl Hounshell -- One of the elders at Independence has some serious health problems, is improving & back in MS.

Virginia Mayfield -- friend of Bren, has leukemia.

Ray Maples -- undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia.

Carla Carlson -- has received excellent news that her cancer is in remission!

Janie Brister -- has multiple health problems.

Cathy Thompson -- has lupus.

James Angel; Steve Angel; Gloria Angel; Bob Spurlin;

David Bragg; Kelly Ann Cooper; Allen Family.

October Birthdays

Mischel Jackson -- 10/03

Lynn Wilkes -- 10/05

Georgia Bayless -- 10/15

Jared Brown -- 10/16

Abby Kate Haynes -- 10/17

Sarah Norris -- 10/20

Billy Bland -- 10/31

"About Me" sheets are due TODAY!

Please give them to Elizabeth Baker.

Get Involved!

E3 Sunday Fellowship Meal & Early Service

Today -- PM Service at 1PM

Zoo Boo -- Oct. 21 -- 6:30 PM

Sign up sheet in the foyer! \$10/person
Deadline is TODAY in order to get discounted price.
Give your ticket money to Jeffrey Ferrell

Coldwater Work Day -- Oct. 22

Beginning at 9AM. We need the help of all!

Fishers of Men Class at Coldwater

We have recorded **25 studies** with **19 people**
so far in our study reports.

Please pray for the teachers and students!

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, October 16

Morning

Prayer Before Class

Jerry Davis

Announcements

Andy Ratliff

Song Leader

Caleb Baker

Lord's Supper:

Preside

Wiley Tuggle

Assist

Johnny Bayless

Assist

Jeremy Moore

Opening Prayer

Shane Staten

Sermon

Jason Bayless

Closing Prayer

Clifton Angel

Closing Prayer

Jared Brown

Evening

Song Leader

Caleb Baker

Opening Prayer

Jeffrey Ferrell

Sermon

Clifton Angel

Lord's Supper

Jeremy Moore

Closing Prayer

Shane Staten

Closing Prayer

Ron Johnson

Wednesday, October 19

Song Leader

Caleb Baker

Prayer

Jerry Davis

Invitation

Clifton Angel

Prayer

Wiley Tuggle