

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oct. 23, 2011



What's More Important Than Jesus?

by Jim Murrell

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16).

The rich man asked Jesus, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17). Then Jesus asked him if he had kept the law. He said yes. In love Jesus responded, "One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me" (Mark 10:21b). But the rich man was "sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions" (Mark 10:22).

Jesus let him go. Jesus didn't run after him. And there's another thing I want you to notice: Jesus didn't lower His standards.

Is there anything you love more than Jesus? You must willingly lay it down to be saved.

Support Jim Murrell's work for the Lord by visiting www.iftruthbetold.org.
He sends very exhorting articles such as the above via ExhortMail.

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

The Local Church

by Trent Childers

There is certainly one church, in that there is one body of people who have been bought by the blood of Christ, baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:26ff; Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 12:13; 1 Pet. 3:20-21). Jesus said He would build His church (Mat. 16:18), and it was established on the day of Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ (Mat. 16:18-19; Mark 9:1; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Acts 2). So, universally, there is one church. Does the body of Christ all gather into one designated place on earth and meet? Obviously they do not. There are many local churches. The Bible speaks of various congregations. Paul penned letters “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth” (1 Cor. 1:2), “unto the churches of Galatia” (Gal. 1:2), to the “saints which are at Ephesus” (Eph. 1:1), “to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi” (Php. 1:1), “To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse” (Col. 1:2), “unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 The. 1:1), and John penned “John to the seven churches which are in Asia” (Rev. 1:4). If there are local congregations of the Lord, and there are, then what are they to do?

What better way to answer this question than to see what the first century church did under the authority of Christ? After the church was established, “they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42), “and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:45), and they continued “daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people” (Acts 2:46-47). They followed the right doctrine, they worshipped the Lord, they helped people in need, and they edified one another. The Bible teaches they also taught people the Gospel of Christ, even in the midst of persecution: “As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:3-4). Members of the church, not only the apostles, had evangelistic zeal. Since the Bible is “God breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and has “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3), it is our pattern, and a local church today can know what to do by looking to the Bible.

We are to follow after the right doctrine and pattern of worship just as they did. Paul wrote to Timothy, “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:13), and the Lord said, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). The first century church helped those who are in need, and we are to as well. Paul expressed,...

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10), and James affirmed, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27). It cost money to help others, and people gave as they had prospered. Paul wrote to Corinth, “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 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. 16:1-2). Paul spoke of the Macedonians “How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality” (2 Cor. 8:2), and Paul also stated, “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). Not only does it cost money to help others in physical need, but it cost money to get the Gospel to those spiritually sick. Our Lord charged that the Gospel be preached to “every creature” (Mark 16:15), and Paul explained to Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 TIm. 2:2). Paul discussed supporting financially an evangelist (1 Cor. 9). So, the early church gave financially to the cause of Christ, and we are to today as well.

Obviously, the local church has great responsibility. What about the church here at Rogers Springs [***and Coldwater, MS--ed. CA***]? What about the church of which you are a member, dear reader? Does that local church follow the right doctrine and pattern of worship, help those physically in need, work to teach the Gospel, and give liberally to the cause of Christ?

Trent Childers preaches for the Rogers Springs Church of Christ in Middleton, TN, and their website can be visited at www.rogersspringschurchofchrist.com.

Sermon Review

The Sacrificial Life

(Romans 11:33-12:2; esp. 12:1)

- I. A Full Sacrifice.
- II. A Living Sacrifice.
- III. A Logical Sacrifice.

Two Things We Cannot Understand

(Phil. 4:4-9; Eph. 3:14-19)

- I. *The Peace of God*
- II. *The Love of Christ*

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Jason Bayless, recovering from some torn tissue in chest.
Inez Neyman, recovering.
Wiley & Betty Tuggle.
Tim II, Rachel, & Titus Wilkes

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

Josh & Maggie Farrow, loss of 15 mo. old daughter.
Luke Finchman, in loss of grandmother and other trials.
Thomas Tuggle, brother of Wiley, passed on Friday.
Hannah O'Brien, pregnant with twins.
Renee Loya, (cousin of Elizabeth Baker), has MS.
Wes, brother of Deb Peeler, has cancer
Norman & Brenda Mahan, tragic motorcycle accident.
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. Needs our prayers.
Jeff Nichols -- on breathing machine, not doing well.
Carl Hounshell -- One of the elders at Independence has some serious health problems, but is improving.
Virginia Mayfield -- friend of Bren, has leukemia.
Ray Maples -- undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia.
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 past due!
Please give them to Elizabeth Baker.

Get Involved!

5th Sunday Singing & Devo -- Oct. 30
Trunk O' Treat -- Oct. 30 after PM service
Finger food fellowship.
Bonfire & Hayride @ Jackson's -- Nov. 5
Sunday Night for the Savior -- Nov. 6
Get contacts to Jason/Clifton by AM service.
Bringing finger foods!
3rd Annual Lectures @ Rogers Springs
Nov. 12

Fishers of Men Class at Coldwater

We have recorded **41 studies** with **22 people** so far in our study reports.
Please pray for the teachers and students!

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, October 23

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeremy Moore
Announcements	Billy Bland
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Johnny Bayless
	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Jason Bayless
	Caleb Baker
	Jerry Davis
Assist	Clifton Angel
Opening Prayer	Ron Johnson
Sermon	
Closing Prayer	

Evening

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Shane Staten
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Jason Bayless
	Andy Ratliff
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, October 26

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Jim Jackson
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jerry Davis