

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oct. 27, 2013



## THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE CHURCH

I remember interviewing with the New Concord elders close to five years ago, and one of the questions they asked me in the interview was what I thought the greatest threat to the church was. At the time, I answered that the greatest threat to the church was post-modernism. I still believe that post-modernism is a great threat to the church: claiming that there is no absolute truth and such. Satan was post-modern. When Eve told him what God had said, Satan replied, "Has God really said..."? That's how post-modernism begins: it questions what God says. The serpent, then, denied what God had said: "You will not surely die." Finally, post-modernism rationalizes away absolute truth by making it trivial and subjective; while adding a hint of truth. Yes, post-modernism is still a threat to the church.

However, on the horizon I see another threat. Perhaps it's been here all along. If that's so, perhaps this threat is just more noticeable to me now than it has been. ***I think the greatest threat to the church is Christian apathy.*** Apathy is a "lack of interest, concern, or enthusiasm." I think many Christians may suffer from this.

Church buildings can become relics of the past rather than beacons of hope. Pews can become occupied with spiritual time-card punchers rather than dedicated disciples. The prayers of Christians in the assembly can be mere "Christianese" rather than heartfelt supplications. It becomes routine to snip and sip as the bread and fruit of the vine is passed around. Yes, if we're not careful, our faith can become a convenience, and that convenience can breed apathy.

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*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).*

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VISITORS,  
WELCOME!

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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.

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### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

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### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

When the Jews returned to the promised land after exile, they were charged with the task of rebuilding the house of the Lord. However, their efforts were stalled by enemies (Ezra 4.23-24), and they were content to give up easily. When the prophet Haggai came upon the scene, he addressed just this thing — spiritual apathy.

God sent him, and the people were in agreement that

*...the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD. (1.2)*

Why, though? Sure, they were disheartened (cf. Neh. 4.10). They were discouraged. They became comfortable in this state. But, they were not so disheartened that they didn't spend the time and money on their own houses:

*Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?...Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. (1.4, 9b)*

Here's what happened:

- God's people put off God's work
- When they put off God's work, they cared more for their own lifestyles

This is what happens in the church today. We put off God's work, and then we consumed ourselves with our own houses and matters: things that will not survive the second return of Christ.

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also....No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money [possessions]. (Matt. 6.19-21, 24)*

Because God's work was neglected by the Jews, they could never get enough. They sowed much, but harvested little; they ate and drank, but were never full; they clothed themselves, but they were never warm (1.6; cf. 2.16-17). God said that when they earned wages, they put it in a bag of holes. In other words, they always had more month at the end of their money.

**I DON'T FEEL,**  
and neither do I care to.

**-Apathy**

God gave them a remedy for their apathy:

- 1. Evaluation** – Twice, God told His people to consider their ways (1.5, 7). They needed to take an inward look at their behavior. If they were honest enough, they would see exactly what He was telling them through Haggai. They had become complacent.
- 2. Obedience** – Whenever they looked inwardly, they repented. They quit not doing anything, and “the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God” (1.12). They gathered the timber, they sawed the logs, and they went to work on the house of the LORD.
- 3. Action** – “And they came and worked...” (1.14). It wasn’t enough to simply get all the materials. They began building. They didn’t just listen to Haggai and say, “Yeah, we need to do better.” They did better. They weren’t hearers only, but became doers.

Apathy can plague the heart of a Christian. It can overtake the life of a church. It takes those faithful to God’s Word to point it out, but it ultimately takes an honest listener who will respond appropriately to erase it. Apathy, though a threat, can become an opportunity to sincere repentance and action. It’s time to care about what really matters.

—written by **Steven Hunter**  
[www.veritasvenator.com](http://www.veritasvenator.com)

*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord*  
*Colossians 3:23*

## Sermon Review

### The Preaching of the Cross

(1 Corinthians 1:17–2:5)

- I. The Power of God
- II. The Wisdom of God

**ISLAM DVD SERIES**

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Clifton Angel & family** in loss of David Angel, especially pray for Clifton's mom, Vicki; **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**; **Sue Cobern**; **Helen Bowman**, she is confined more than before because of incidents dangerous to her well-being.

**OpenDoor Ministry**  
**Fishers of Men**  
**Far East Missions**

## Family & Friends

**Curtis Cates'** family, he passed Friday with family all around, funeral Mon at 2, viewing 10-2, all at Forest Hill church of Christ; **Brenda Maples** family; **Jillian Angel**, Clifton's younger sister, had her wisdom teeth removed Thursday; **Ray Maples**; **John & Anita Simpson & family**; **Hadskey Family**, in loss of daughter Susan; **Janet Colvett**, (Jeffrey's mother) we rejoice that her leukemia is in remission, but platelets are still low; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, has stage 4 cancer and has refused all treatments at this time; **Cindy Jones' family**; **LaJuan Collums'**, receiving treatments for cancer, battles other health problems also; **Virginia Johnson**, wife of gospel preacher Roger Johnson, has stage 4 lung cancer; **Juanita Wooten**; **Vicky Davis**, cancer; **Joy Angel**, battling various health problems; **Roy Cobern**; **Raleigh Wooten**; **JoAnn Prestage**, Sara Norris' sister, cancer; **Tasha Higginbotham**, in need of a kidney transplant, thankful that her cataract surgery went well; **Linda Perkins**, Tim West's mother-in-law, leukemia, also Linda's husband has had pneumonia; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**, toddler with leukemia; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**, in efforts of adoption of baby Faith; **Carly Wright**, 3 yr. old with liver cancer; **Joe & Josephine Johnston**, and their sons, Charles and Chris; **Frederick Bland**; **Carla Carlson**; **Janie Brister**.

## Birthdays

10/3 Mischel Jackson  
10/5 Lynn Wilkes  
10/15 Georgia Bayless  
10/16 Jared Brown  
10/16 Titus Wilkes  
10/17 Abby Kate Haynes  
10/20 Sarah Norris  
10/31 Billy Bland

## Get Involved!

**Islam DVD Series -- 8<sup>th</sup> Lesson TODAY -- 1 PM**  
Invite everyone! Refreshments to follow.  
Series ends today.

**Trunk 'R Treat -- Oct 30 -- 5:30 PM**  
Bring finger foods for fellowship after treating.

**Young Adult Halloween Party -- Nov 1**  
at Jason & Ginger's, 7PM, bring finger foods

**Southaven Ladies Retreat -- Nov 1**

**Teachers' Workshop for Ladies -- Nov 9**  
bibleclassworkshop.com, 9am – 3pm; see flyer

**Bonfire & Hayride at Jackson's -- Nov 9**

**Bible Bowl -- Nov 16 -- Gen 22 – 24**  
At Thyatira, 10:30 AM

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, October 27

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeremy Moore
Announcements	Seth Daneil
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Jason Bayless
Assist	Ron Johnson
	Billy Bland
Opening Prayer	Joe Owen
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jim Jackson

#### Afternoon

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Jerry Davis
Sermon	Islam DVD/C.A.
Lord's Supper	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Jason Bayless
Closing Prayer	Andy Ratliff

### Wednesday, October 30

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Jason Bayless
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell