

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST Nov. 11, 2018



Civilized Idolatry

by Franklin Camp

PART 1

Man will have a god of some kind. Those who reject the true God make them a substitute. Therefore it is not a question as to whether man will have a god but whether he will have the true God or an idol.

This is shown in the history of man. The Gentile world that rejected the true God made gods of their own. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful: but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beast, and creeping things" (Rom. 1:21-23).

The Gentiles could not live without a god, and when they turned from the true God, they made idols. The same story is true of Israel. When they became weary of the true God they turned to the idols of heathen nations around them.

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

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell Chris Martin

Joe Owen Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II John Wofford

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

They did not like the service of God but soon found that life must have a god of some type, and so, they made them gods to serve.

We have not moved one inch from the Jewish and Gentile world of the past. We can no more get along without a god than they could. The question with us, as with them, is not will we have God, but will we have the true God or an idol? We only think that we have outgrown heathen idolatry. We do not have the form of idolatry as they did, we have just civilized our gods. The only difference in heathen idolatry and ours is that we have refined ours. We do not fashion our idols out of wood with our hands, we fashion them with our minds and set them up in our imagination.

WE HAVE MADE AN IDOL OF SECULAR EDUCATION. Education is a good thing but it must include spiritual and moral development as well as the mind and body...The specialized age in which we live calls for higher education. This very thing has led many to making an idol of secular education. The idea seems to be that degrees will solve our problems. In many instances the higher the degree that one obtains the more God is rejected.

In most of the graduate schools infidelity is taught wholesale. Secular education is substituted for God. There is a grave danger that the church may become invested with this idol. I was talking with a preacher recently that had talked with the elders of a congregation about working with them. The first question they asked was, "What kind of degrees do you have?"

There is nothing wrong with a preacher having a degree or several degrees, but when that comes first with elders they are bowing before a civilized idol. A preacher's first obligation is to know the Bible. If he knows the Bible, is clean in life, and faithful in preaching the truth he is as qualified a preacher as if he never saw a degree. I have a grave suspicion that an elder that would not consider a preacher that is a good Bible student and a capable preacher because he does not have a degree, does not want the Bible preacher anyway.

WE MAKE AN IDOL OUT OF GOD. This may seem to be a strange statement but it is true. In 2 Kings 17 we have the account of Israel in Assyrian captivity. "The king of ...

... Assyria sent men from Babylon, and Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they dwelt in the cities thereof" (2 Kin. 17:24). These people did not fear the Lord and he sent lions among them. They sent word to the king of Assyria of their difficulty. The king decided that their trouble was ignorance of the manner of the God of the land. A priest was selected to go down and teach the manner of the God of the land. The result was, "They feared the Lord and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence" (2 Kin. 17:33).

Here is an example of people making an idol of God. He was not the one true God but a god among many. "They feared the Lord, and served their own gods." How descriptive this is of the kind of religion many people practice today. They know too much to completely reject God, but they refuse to have Him as their only God. That which a person places first in his life is his God. Are there not multitudes of people that "fear the Lord" but do not place Him first in their lives? They may be religious or even members of the Lord's church but they are guilty of idolatry. Instead of actually serving God they have made an idol of God. When men live for money, success, pleasure or fame first, and then try to serve God, they have made an idol of God. God is only one among many gods to such people and when we try to include God along with other gods we make an idol of God.

...broken into 2 parts for space, CRA...

Words of Truth, Vol 55 Issue 2

Sixth Ave Church of Christ



2018 Fall Food Drive

Items Due Sunday, November 11

Canned Chicken

Macaroni & Cheese

Dry Seasoning Packets
(Spaghetti, chili, taco, meatloaf,
gravy mix, etc.)

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Sarah Norris, congestive heart failure and kidney trouble; **Wilkes II family**, India trip; **Billy Bland**, China/Singapore trip; **Weslyn Talley & Katherine King**; **Sammy Williams**, cancer treatments; **Stephanie Bayless**; **Clifton Angel**, surgery Nov. 27 @ Vanderbilt; **Timothy Wilkes, Sr**; **Wiley Tuggle**; **Caleb & Elizabeth Baker**; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**.

[Far East Missions](#)|[Fishers of Men](#)|[NetCasters](#)

Family & Friends

Brinson family, Mallory passed last Saturday, her infant twins (Everly & Anastyn) both have RSV, her husband Heath certainly needs our prayers; **Dan Talley**, Weslyn's father-in-law, lung cancer, body not responding to chemo; **Evans Hoffman and family**, his wife passed unexpectedly from aneurysm; **Marla Davis family**, funeral was Friday; **Devin Dickey**, aneurysm that will require surgery; **Darrell Martin**, Chris' dad, leukemia treatment.

Birthdays

11/5 Rachel Wilkes
11/13 Danni Strickland
11/14 Kara Johnson
11/16 Billie Martin
11/18 Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
11/25 Ginna Honeycutt
11/25 Wiley Tuggle
11/26 Virginia Sowell

Anniversaries

11/8 Jeremy & Mindy Moore

Get Involved!

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior: TODAY
Between services

Nesbit Gospel Meeting: Nov 11 – 14
Don Blackwell preaching, see flyer for details

PineVale Pantry Drive: Items due TODAY
Details inside;
Place items in large cooler in the workroom

Providence Place Devo: TODAY, 2 PM

Bible Bowl @ Coldwater: Nov 17, 4 PM
1 Samuel 7, 8, 9

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, November 11

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeffrey Ferrell
Announcements	Jerry Davis
Song Leader	Noah Davis
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jim Jackson John Wofford
Assist	Russell Wadsworth
Opening Prayer	Jerry Davis
Sermon	Chris Martin
Closing Prayer	Clifton Angel Andy Ratliff

Afternoon

Song Leader	Noah Davis
Opening Prayer	Tim Meredith
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jim Jackson John Wofford
Closing Prayer	Marc Strickland

Wednesday, November 14

Song Leader	Noah Davis
Prayer	Jerry Davis
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Terry Davis

TECH:	Dalton Owen
HALL:	Andy & Molly Ratliff