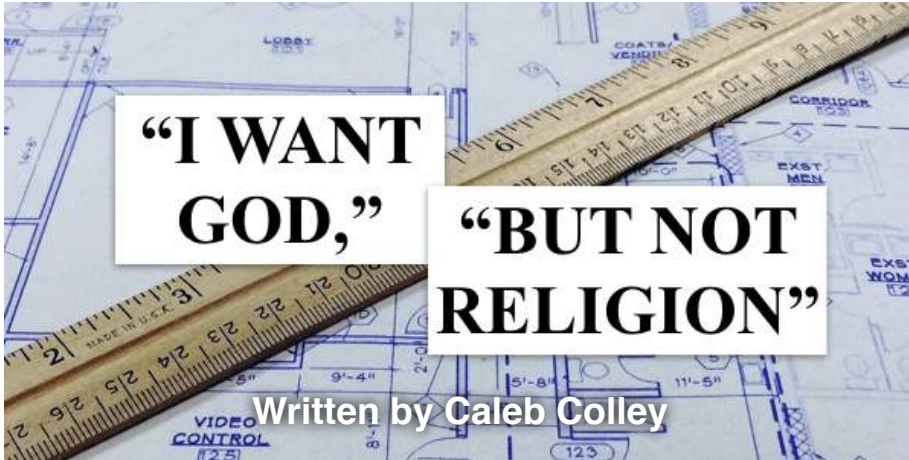


# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST Dec 8, 2019



**“I WANT  
GOD,”**

**“BUT NOT  
RELIGION”**

Written by Caleb Colley

Sometimes a person will express the following sentiment: “I want to have a good relationship with God, but I want nothing to do with organized religion!” This desire may be both sincere and flow from noble motives. It may result from some negative experience with a particular religious group. However, in the following we will observe: (1) The Bible does not allow that the desire to have God without the church can be fulfilled. (2) The ...

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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 & fellowship  
for lunch every Sunday!

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell JoeOwen

Andy Ratliff Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

... desire to have God and not the church reflects a lack of biblical understanding, which must be corrected.

***First, consider why the desire to have God and not the church cannot be fulfilled.*** The Bible teaches that anyone who is saved is a member of Christ's church. Christ's blood purchased the church (Acts 20:28), and so when we refer to the "church" in the universal sense (rather than the local, congregational sense) we are referring to the saved. This simply follows from Ephesians 5:22-27:

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish (emp. added).

The church is built, purchased and owned by Christ (cf. Matthew ...

... 16:18), and so He has the right to organize it how He will. He has done so by providing a blueprint for the church's organization in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:15; Titus 1:5). Thus, the church is an organization with divine sanction.

***Second, consider that the desire to have God and not the church reflects a lack of biblical understanding.*** As Wayne Jackson observes, while some indeed have lost faith in organized religion, "God does not condone confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33), and one is not allowed to improvise his own worship and service system (John 4:24; 17:17)." A right relationship with God is found only in Christ—that is, in His body the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4). The church always has been a priority the mind of God, and we are not at liberty to reject it (Ephesians 3:9-11).

[www.calebcolley.com](http://www.calebcolley.com)



# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Aemon Ratliff**, torn ACL in left knee; **Betty Culbreath**, arm injury from fall, no surgery; **Seth Daniel**, treatments; **Timothy Wilkes**, Sr. family; **Wiley Tuggle**; **Inez Neyman**; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**, **Sammy Williams**; **Ruth Brister**; **Elizabeth Baker**.

## **Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters**

### Family & Friends

**Debra Gill**, recent surgery to install pacemaker; **Charles Savage**, Lara's father, heart cath recently, doing well; **Mike Ratliff**, Andy's father, recovering from recent surgery; **Wanda Coats**, Rachel's aunt, battling cancer spots on ribs; **Waid & Beverly Wilkes**, Tim Sr.'s parents, ongoing health problems; **Tabby Jenkins** and her family.

### ***Birthdays***

12/6      **Sammy Williams**  
12/13     **Michael Sykes**  
12/17     **Kaiden Ferrell**  
12/22     **Dalton Owen**  
12/24     **Daniel Owen**  
12/30     **Renee Davis**

### ***Anniversaries***

12/13     **Jerry & Renee Davis**

## Get Involved!

**Sunday Afternoon For the Savior: TODAY**  
Between Services

**Providence Place Devo: TODAY, 2:00 PM**

**Secret Sisters Reveal: Dec 10, 6:30 PM**

**Youth Devo @ Strickland's: Dec 14, 1 PM**  
Ornament Exchange & Dirty Santa (~\$7 gift)

Bring finger food or potluck dish  
Desserts and drinks provided

**Coldwater Singing Night: Dec 25, 7 PM**

**5th Sunday Service: Dec 29, 1 PM**

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, December 8

### *Morning*

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Prayer Before Class | Jeffrey Ferrell |
| Announcements       | Jerry Davis     |
| Song Leader         | Noah Davis      |
| Lord's Supper:      |                 |
| Preside             | Tim Meredith    |
|                     | Andy Ratliff    |
| Assist              | Bodie Meredith  |
|                     | Mika Meredith   |
| Opening Prayer      | Jason Bayless   |
| Sermon              | Clifton Angel   |
| Closing Prayer      | Kevin Dixon     |

### *Afternoon*

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Song Leader    | Noah Davis    |
| Opening Prayer | Jim Jackson   |
| Sermon         | Clifton Angel |
| Lord's Supper  | Tim Meredith  |
|                | Andy Ratliff  |
|                | Billy Bland   |
| Closing Prayer |               |

Wednesday, December 11

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Song Leader | Noah Davis    |
| Prayer      | Jerry Davis   |
| Invitation  | Clifton Angel |
| Prayer      | Tim Wilkes II |

|       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|
| TECH: | Davis Johnson         |
| HALL: | Jim & Mischel Jackson |