

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST Dec 15, 2019



Are "Sacraments" from God?

Written by Barry O'Dell

It is not uncommon in religious discussions to hear the word "*sacrament*" The Catholic church defines this term as, "outward signs of inward grace, instituted by Christ for our sanctification." It was during the Council of Trent (1545-1563) that the Roman Catholic church "solemnly defined" that there were seven sacraments. According to newadvent.org, these sacraments had been adopted prior to Trent, but after this time they were "properly so called." It is taught that there are seven sacraments (*holy ordinances*) - baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, penance, holy orders, extreme unction, and marriage - that were instituted by Christ. It is interesting, however, to know that originally there were supposedly only two sacraments - baptism and the Lord's Supper. Two questions: (1) Where, in the pages of the New Testament of Christ, can it be found that Christ "ordained" any sacraments at all? (2) Why stop at seven?

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

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell JoeOwen

Andy Ratliff Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

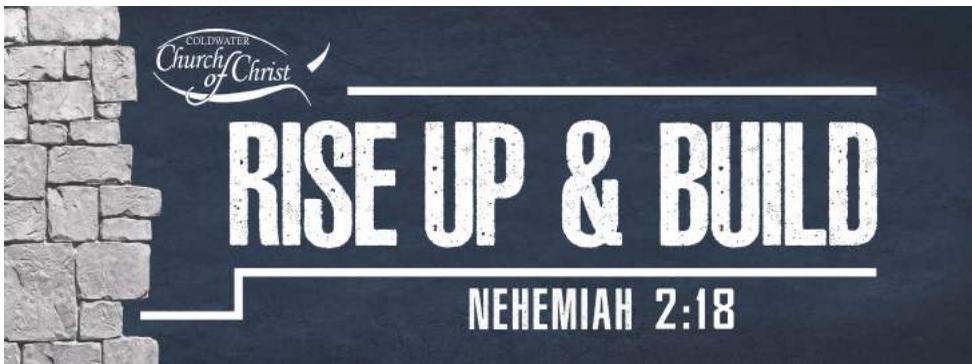
Why not have eight or nine sacraments? Another word we hear used in connection with the idea of *sacraments* is *rite* which means, "a religious or other solemn ceremony or act." While *sacraments* and *rites* are spoken of by religious people and groups today, the seven things mentioned above are never identified as such in the Bible.

Another noteworthy point to mention is that a periodical dealing with the "seven sacraments" states unequivocally that to change the number of them will cause one to be anathema (cursed). However, the word of God informs us that those who change the content of the gospel will be cursed. Paul wrote, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:6-9). A man or a group of men does not have the authority to alter the word of God (Pro. 30:5-6). God, through the written word, has revealed all that pertains to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). We do not need the Council of Trent or the papacy to reveal some new information to us. While their tradition teaches that the popes are successors of Peter, the so-called original father of the church, the word of God teaches something completely different. During the first century an inspired man of God wrote, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). The word *once* is translated from a Greek term (*hapax*) which indicates that something was done one time, never to be done again. The same word is used in Hebrews 9:28 stating that Jesus was offered once for the

sins of many. The faith, i.e. the gospel, was delivered one time - never to be done again or to be altered over time.

According to the website newadvent.org there have been twenty-one ecumenical councils. The first was held in AD 325 in Nicaea (Turkey) and the last was held from 1962-1965 in Saint Peter's Basilica. During this 1,600 year period, church organization and dogma has changed dramatically from the simple, straight-forward pattern found in the pages of the New Covenant. If God's word provides "all things that pertain to life and godliness" and if the faith was "once for all delivered" during the first century AD, what are we to make of the changes that followed? It is a blatant contradiction of the Bible for any group to teach that they have received further revelation from God. The worship and service of the Lord's church is to be directed by the word of God, not the votes of men. God's people are to walk by the same rule (*kanon*) or standard of measure (Phil. 3:16). However, if it is constantly changing over time by various meetings, how can it be consistently followed? Thankfully, we have the breathed out by God scriptures "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Our faith is to be in the power of God, not the wisdom of men (1 Cor. 2:1-5). Sacraments, as they are called, are not from God. They have evolved over time at the hands of fallible men who have taken it upon themselves to "pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:7).

mammothspringchurchofChrist.com



NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Sherry Gaines, several days in hospital; **Wiley Tuggle and others**, stomach virus; **Aemon Ratliff**, torn ACL in left knee; **Betty Culbreath**, arm injury from fall, no surgery; **Seth Daniel**, treatments; **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!

Coldwater Singing Night: Dec 25, 7 PM

5th Sunday Giving: Dec 29, 10:30 AM
All \$\$\$ beyond budget goes to building fund

5th Sunday Service: Dec 29, 1 PM

New Quarter Begins: Jan 5

See Jeffrey Ferrell to help with teaching

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior: Jan 5

Providence Place Devo: Jan 12, 2 PM

Sen. Health& Rehab Devo: Jan 22, 10 AM

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, December 15

Morning

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Prayer Before Class | Andy Ratliff |
| Announcements | Billy Bland |
| Song Leader | Jason Bayless |
| Lord's Supper: | |
| Preside | Jim Jackson |
| | Marc Strickland |
| Assist | Tim Wilkes II |
| | Carl Honeycutt |
| Opening Prayer | Jerry Davis |
| Sermon | Clifton Angel |
| Closing Prayer | Tim Meredith |

Afternoon

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Song Leader | Jason Bayless |
| Opening Prayer | John Wofford |
| Sermon | Clifton Angel |
| Lord's Supper | Tim Wilkes II |
| | Jim Jackson |
| Closing Prayer | Jeffrey Ferrell |

Wednesday, December 18

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|-------------|---------------|
| Song Leader | Jason Bayless |
| Prayer | Billy Bland |
| Invitation | Clifton Angel |
| Prayer | Kevin Dixon |

| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| TECH: | Noah Davis |
| HALL: | Tim & Rachel Wilkes |