

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dec. 16, 2012



## “It is more blessed to give than to receive”

by Clifton Angel

Jesus said it. Paul quoted it. Luke wrote it. And the context should be of great interest. “And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church” (Acts 20:17). From verses 18 through 35, we have a discourse from Paul to the elders of the church at Ephesus. It is evident that they and Paul were under the impression that “they should see his face no more” (Acts 20:38). How interesting it is that Paul’s last words (at least as recorded by Luke, being inspired by the Holy Spirit) to these elders was this: “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). In all areas, elders are to be leaders (c.f. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). This does not mean that they will be perfect, but it does mean they will be mature. And in the particular area that Paul mentions here, they are to lead in helping those in need. Why would Paul choose these words at the close of his discourse to these men? I cannot say with certainty why Paul chose those words as finality, but I do know some temptations that can come to elders (and all Christians, for that matter), with which these words would directly fit.

Is it possible that elders might be tempted to be prideful in their positions? Could such pride lead to a desire for more power? Or could such pride lead to a desire for prestige? I am certain that

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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!

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

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

the answers are “yes.” While he was not an inspired man, Clement of Rome wrote to the church in Corinth with an apparent concern for the brethren and elders there. In one place, he said, “And our Apostles knew through our Lord Jesus Christ that there would be strife over the name of the bishop’s office” (1 Clement 44:1, Lightfoot, *Apostolic Fathers*). In history, we also see a misuse and corruption of the men placed in authority, so much so that such heresy developed into the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. Therefore, I find it important to note from the words of Jesus which Paul quoted, that if there is one thing that can keep one’s mind (including elders) from being filled with selfishness and pride, it is this: SERVICE. “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive**” (Acts 20:35, **emph. mine, CA**).

Is this message from Paul only for elders? No, no, and a thousand times no. However, it is a characteristic that should certainly be found in them as overseers and examples. Through the shepherds’ authority, their teachings, choices of teachers, and examples, hopefully, the sheep will follow. If you are a shepherd, lead. If you are a sheep, follow and lead where appointed by the faithful shepherds. “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17). As John DeBerry stated, “The greatest degree in the brotherhood is servant.” It has also been noted that we live in a self-centered society: iPad, iPhone, iPod, MySpace, “Have it Your Way.” The greatest opportunities that elders have to be elders is that they are able to serve. The greatest opportunities that Christians have to be Christians is that they are able to serve. The greatest opportunity that mankind has is the opportunity to serve.

The spawning of a desire to study this passage came from seeing service in action as the Coldwater youth prepared fruit baskets and goody bags to give to those who are older and deserve our respect. Children do not always understand why they are to do something or even the benefits of such an action, but those who are mature understand the importance of their actions. Whether the children know it or not, they needed this occasion, and they need many more like them. They need to be taught to

serve others, for it is then that children are taught how “Jesus loves me.” It is that time of year when our minds will spend a great amount of time on shopping and purchasing, giving and receiving. The message above is needed at every moment of the year but, perhaps, it is this time of year that we need to be reminded most, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

**This Week’s Daily Bible Reading:**

Sunday: 2 Timothy  
Monday: Titus – Philemon  
Tuesday: Hebrews 1 – 6  
Wednesday: Hebrews 7 – 10  
Thursday: Hebrews 11 – 13  
Friday: James  
Saturday: 1 Peter

God did not promise days without pain;  
Laughter without sorrow;  
Sun without rain.

But He did promise strength for the day,  
Comfort for the tears;  
Light for the way.  
-Unknown

**PSALM 40:1-5**

I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

*Sermon Review*

**Separation**

- I. Momentary (Phil 1:8; Acts 20:36-38)
- II. Mortal (Ja 2:26; 2Sa 12:13-23; 2Ti 4:6)
- III. Monumental (Isa 59:2; Rom 6:23)

**Birth of Christ:  
A Providential Location**

(Micah 5:1-6; Matt. 2:1-6)

- I. God’s Prophecy (Micah 5:2)
- II. God’s Providence (Matt. 2:1)

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Nora Boling**, was able to return home and is doing much better.

**Betty Tuggle**, was having some stomach problems.

**Wiley & Betty Tuggle; Sara Norris;**

**Herbert & Helen Bowman; Sue Cobern**

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

## Family & Friends

**Vicki Angel**, Clifton's mother, has diverticulitis.

**Barbara Denton**, friend of Molly, stage 3 cervical cancer. **David Angel** is doing well after having the hole in his heart patched. **Brigmon Family; Janice Jenkins**, co-work to Beverly Hayes, rare form of cancer. **Carla Carlson** and her battle with cancer.

**Chris Howell family; Butch Stone family; Gema Winchester** and her battle with stomach cancer. **Matthew Canada**, young boy who has down syndrome and acute lymphoblastic leukemia. **Wes**,

brother of Deb Peeler, cancer; **Herman King; Doris Easley; Tate Williams' Family; Curtis A. Cates; Frederick Bland; Eli Williams; Ray Maples; Wayne Collinsworth; Andrew Hagedwood; Janie Brister; Chuck Tharp; Renee Loya; Aubree Harris; Virginia Mayfield; Peyton Harville; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.**

## December Birthdays

12/05 Jimmy Yarbro  
12/17 Kaiden Ferrell  
12/22 Dalton Owen  
12/23 Jeremy Moore  
12/24 Daniel Owen  
12/27 Reese Kinney  
12/30 Renee Davis

## December Anniversaries

12/10 Beau & Maira Davis  
12/13 Jerry & Renee Davis

## Get Involved!

### **Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012**

Let's continue to read and study together!!

**Wednesday Night Singing -- Dec. 26 -- 7PM**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing & Devo -- Dec. 30 -- 1PM**

**Standing in the Gap Lectureship at Nesbit**

January 25-27, 2013

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, December 16

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class

Jerry Davis

Announcements

Jared Brown

Song Leader

Andy Ratliff

Lord's Supper:

Preside

Billy Bland

Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Assist

Ron Johnson

Opening Prayer

Payton Jackson

Sermon

Jason Bayless

Closing Prayer

Clifton Angel

Jeremy Moore

#### Afternoon

Song Leader

Andy Ratliff

Opening Prayer

Jeffrey Ferrell

Sermon

Clifton Angel

Lord's Supper

Ron Johnson

Closing Prayer

Payton Jackson

Jim Jackson

### Wednesday, December 19

Song Leader

Andy Ratliff

Prayer

Jerry Davis

Invitation

Clifton Angel

Prayer

Joe Owen