

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST Dec 22, 2019



Things to Remember During the Holidays **PART ONE**

Written by Hiram Kemp

It has been called "the most wonderful time of the year" and for good reason. During the holiday season, people are typically nicer than they are throughout the year. While we wish the kind spirit and jovial attitude shown by many near the end of November and throughout December were a year-round ordeal, we appreciate it as long as it lasts nonetheless. The holidays are a time for family, friends, kind gestures, and relaxation. God has given us all things richly to enjoy, and we should be thankful for every good thing that ultimately comes from Him (1 Tim. 6:17; Jas. 1:17). However, in this time of joy and happiness, it is tempting to forget some things that Christians should keep close to heart. As God blessed Old Testament Israel with deliverance from Egyptian bondage, they developed spiritual amnesia and paid a price for it (Psa. 106:13-23). They forgot what they once were—captives to a pagan people. We must not allow the good times we enjoy to get us sidetracked spiritually. One of the most frequent commands in the New Testament for Christians is the command to remember (Luke 17:32; 2 Tim. 2:8; Heb. 13:3). Here are a few things to remember this holiday season.

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

Giving

Whether people believe in God or not, a lot of people tend to be in a giving mood during the holiday season. While giving to others who are less fortunate is always a good thing, that is not the type of giving I have in mind here. It may be tempting during the holiday season—as we are buying so many gifts and spending on others—to forget our contribution to the Lord. The first century Christians were told to lay aside money to give on the first day of the week as they had been prospered by God (1 Cor. 16:2). Our giving should be in proportion to how we have been prospered by God, and we should not cut back on our offering because we want to spend it on some gadget for ourselves or someone else. The giving we do toward the Lord's cause and the work of the church is a special contribution. There are many agencies and causes that solicit donations during this time of the year, and they must all take a "back seat" to the giving we have committed to the only eternal cause in the world (Dan. 2:44; Heb. 12:28).

Remember this holiday season we will be challenged to demonstrate the proof of our love by remaining consistent in our giving regardless of the extra expenses that come up during this time (2 Cor. 8:24). God still loves a cheerful giver, and we should cheerfully give back to the one who has given us all that we have (2 Cor. 9:6-7). It is just my opinion, but it may be wise to even give a little extra during this time of year to the Lord's work to show our money who is boss and to further commit ourselves to put the kingdom first (Matt. 6:33). Remember your giving this holiday season and do not allow the spending we do for others and on ourselves to cause us to rob God (Mal. 3:8).

God

It seems like a rat race from the time we get up until we pillow our heads at night. During the holidays, stores are open later, many rush from work to get some shopping done. Others wait until the weekend and spend all day Saturday hitting the stores to capitalize on sales and other things. Again, there is nothing wrong with these things, but we must be sure to remember God. You might be thinking, "Of course I will remember God; I am no atheist!" But one does not have to renounce his or her belief in God to forget Him. How is your devotional life during this time of the year? Is all of the decorating, shopping, and running crowding out time for Bible study and prayer? Are we so busy on the weekends that we struggle to push through worship on Sunday?

The Psalmist encourages God's people to be still and know who is in control (Psa. 46:10). Set aside time to search the scriptures and handle the word of truth properly (2 Tim. 2:15). Pray throughout the day and not just when you are about to eat a meal (1 Thess. 5:17). Consider getting on a reading plan of some sort and committing to holding fast to your Bible study habits and prayer life even in a time that is extremely busy. Anybody who is too busy for God is too busy. You may not always feel like reading the Bible and praying, but there is not a time when you do not need it (Matt. 4:4). It seems that this time of the year it is hard to stay in the Word because of family and traveling, but remember to stick with it. God is not seasonal in His blessings, let's not be seasonal in our devotion to Him (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8).

Grieving

Many people are in different stages of life. For some, this is the first holiday season with their spouse or with a new baby. For others, this is the first Christmas without a loved one or potentially the last holiday season with a loved one as the medical prognosis does not look good. Christians are instructed by the Holy Spirit to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15). We can enjoy the blessings of this time of year without forgetting that it is not a happy and jolly time for everyone. This does not mean that we should feel guilty about the good that has come into our lives. Yet, we must be emotionally flexible as we see others are in a different stage of life. Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead, but He still wept as He saw the hurt in the heart of Lazarus' sisters and the pain that sin caused (John 11:35). Remember that some are grieving, and a card, a hug, or a listening ear goes a long way. May we not be so caught up in our lives that we forget to invest in the lives of others (Phil. 2:4).

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NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Seth & Jan Daniel; **Mary Alice Arnold**, spot of melanoma; **Sammy Williams**; **Sherry Gaines**, now at Diversecare of Batesville; **Aemon Ratliff**, torn ACL in left knee; **Betty Culbreath**, arm injury; **Wiley Tuggle**; **Inez Neyman**; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**, **Ruth Brister**; **Elizabeth Baker**.

Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters

Family & Friends

Bob Jones, double pneumonia and heart complications; **Brad Daniel**, son to Seth & Jan, mild heart attack, expected to make full recovery; **Michael Rocco**, brother-in-law to Clifton & Lara, emergency gall bladder surgery, doing well; **Sean & Patty**, Dixon's grandchildren, flu; **Wanda Coats**, Rachel's aunt, battling cancer spots on ribs.

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 22

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Billy Bland
Announcements	Jason Bayless
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Kevin Dixon
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Davis Johnson
Opening Prayer	Jim Jackson
Sermon	Billy Bland
Closing Prayer	Marc Strickland

Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	John Wofford
Sermon	Tim Wilkes II
Lord's Supper	Jerry Davis
	Davis Johnson
Closing Prayer	Noah Davis

Wednesday, December 25

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Jason Bayless
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jerry Davis

TECH:	Daniel Owen
HALL:	John & Suzanne Wofford