

## Building a Solid Life

Genuine prosperity is measured not by money but by what is in the heart. Without material possessions, one can still be rich in faith toward God and that is the greatest prosperity of all (James 2:5).

Jesus tells us how to build a foundation toward spiritual prosperity, saying, “Everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall” (Matthew 7:24–27).

The key to building a successful life is found in listening to and obeying the words of Jesus. It is not enough simply to hear the words of Jesus; we must act upon them. It is as foolish to ignore the teachings of Christ as it is to build a house on the shifting sand. While the two houses may have mirrored one another in appearance, only the house built on the rock could withstand the storms of life.

When adversity comes, will your house remain? Is your life firmly grounded on the solid foundation of acting on the words of Jesus? Without obedience to the words of Christ, what assurance do you have of spiritual prosperity? Commit yourself to reading His word every day. Apply His teachings to your life and you will be building a solid life on the only eternal foundation.

–Glen Elliott–

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

June 26, 2024

Number 13

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
711 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 88  
Carthage, TN 37030  
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# SMITH COUNTY *LIGHT*

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”(Matthew 5:16)*



MEETING PLACE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### Elders:

Barry Cook  
(615-735-3194)  
Michael Hackett  
(615-735-7046)  
Johnny Law  
(615-735-1240)  
R.W. Vincent  
(615-735-0361)

#### Pulpit Minister:

Sam Willcut  
(615-489-3211)

#### Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)

#### Secretary:

Kristi Hassler  
(615-489-5144)

711 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 88  
Carthage, TN 37030  
(615-735-0114)

#### Deacons:

Josh Brown  
(931-319-9994)  
Brian Denton  
(615-735-7176)  
Tony Hackett  
(615-735-9037)  
Steve Harper  
(615-735-2651)  
Jeremy Hassler  
(931-335-1884)  
Chris Hicks  
(615-418-6472)  
Jerry Hicks  
(615-418-6637)  
Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)  
Andy Rutherford  
(615-418-5050)  
Dusty Whitaker  
(615-709-1086)

#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Worship  
9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M

#### Bible Study

Sunday Morning 10:15 A.M.  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M.

Email: [carthagecoc@dtccom.net](mailto:carthagecoc@dtccom.net)

Website: [www.carthagechurchofchrist.net](http://www.carthagechurchofchrist.net)

Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.

(615-735-0114 or 615-489-5144)

For Transportation to Services

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“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

## DO NOT WORRY OVER OUR PROBLEMS!

Matthew 6:25-34

Many Christians know that we are not supposed to worry, but they still worry nonetheless. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus discusses prohibitions against such (Matt. 6:24-34), and He provides several reasons why we should not worry over our problems.

First, we should not worry over our problems, because there is more to life than food and clothing (6:25). While the world may measure success by the accumulation of physical possessions (Luke 12:13-15), the Christian measures success in his faithfulness to God. We understand that temporal riches will not matter when we die (cf. 1 Tim. 6:6-7).

Second, we should not worry over our problems, because we are of greater value than birds, grass and flowers (6:26-30). Jesus emphasized such when He declared, “...yet **your heavenly Father feeds them.** Are you not of more value than they?” (6:26). While God provides for the other things of His creation, Jesus refers to Him as our Heavenly Father. In other words, we are of value to God; He will care for us even more so!

Third, we should not worry over our problems, because worrying is an exercise in futility (6:27). One has said, “Worry pulls the clouds of tomorrow over the sunshine of today.” Another has stated, “Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, but it only saps today of its strength.” You may have heard it said, “Worry is as a rocking chair—it gives us something to do, but it does not get us anywhere.” Unfortunately, we cannot undo our past, and the future is uncertain. Thus, we are simply to concern ourselves with the present (Eph. 5:16; Phil. 3:13).

Fourth, we should not worry over our problems, because it is a mark of unbelief (6:32). Jesus refers to Gentiles to illustrate such. In other words, we would expect unbelievers to worry, but we should not expect it from Christians. The New Testament is quite clear as to our position on such (Phil. 4:6-7; Heb. 13:5-6; 1 Pet. 5:7). Leave your burdens with God; do not take them back with you!

Fifth, we should not worry over our problems, because our Heavenly Father already knows our needs. We often sing and pray knowing such, but do we believe it? If we knew our children had needs, would we not fulfill them? Likewise, such is true with God (cf. Phil. 4:19).

Finally, we should not worry over our problems, because each day contains enough trouble on its own (6:34). We ought to live one day at a time—this principle alone may relieve so much worry from our lives, because so much of it has nothing to do with the present. We should not let other days affect our present.

We ought to approach every burden in life with one prevailing question—can I control the situation? If it is within my control, then I will let the will of God determine my course. If it is out of the parameters of my control, then I must not allow the devil to tempt me to worry over it. May we all draw closer to God and allow Him to relieve all worry over our problems!

--Sam Willcut

## *From the preacher's heart...*

We have had a great couple of weeks, although our church family has experienced some loss, and we are grieving along with them. We are continuing to keep Peggy Faustina and her family in our prayers in the recent loss of her father, Barry Harville, and we are continuing to pray for Tony Hackett in the recent loss of his brother, Johnny Hackett. Moreover, we learned recently that Carolyn Harris has experienced two losses in her family (a sister-in-law, Linda Williams, and a stepdaughter, Lisa Harris Rich), and we are heartbroken with her. Moreover, there are members who cannot be with us due to sicknesses, illnesses, cancer, and other such maladies, and we miss them terribly. Let us keep all these (and others in our bulletin) in our prayers.

Seth and Rachel Hackett had a beautiful wedding, and many of our members were in attendance for this. We congratulate the Hackett family, and we have been praying for Seth and Rachel while they are away on their honeymoon. Here is a little factoid—while I was traveling to the location of the wedding (The Saltbox on the north side of Cookeville), as I got within a mile of the location, I passed a familiar street and exclaimed, “Hey, I know where I am! I used to live on that street!” Sure enough, not a mile from where the beautiful wedding was, I lived near there as a child. Who knew?

With June having five weeks, we just enjoyed our monthly singing service last Sunday, and for our fifth Sunday next week, we are looking forward to our young men conducting the second service, and the monthly fellowship meal afterwards (Lord willing, I am bringing shrimp gumbo!). Furthermore, we are having a guest speaker this Sunday—Roy Johnson, with Lads to Leaders. He will be speaking in the first service and teaching the auditorium class. The Lads to Leaders program (about which he will be presenting) has done a lot of good throughout the kingdom in training boys and girls to become leaders respectively, and I hope you will be looking forward to this with great anticipation.

Tomorrow night, Thursday night, June 27, is our first TNT (Thursday Night Together) of the summer, and it will be at Justin & Sarah Mauldin's house, beginning at 6:00 PM. The entire congregation is invited! Additionally, Justin is planning a Nashville Sounds game on Saturday night, July 27. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for those desiring to go. See Justin for more information.

Next month is JSCYC, which is July 14-19. Along with the other co-directors, brother Edward Anderson is leading what they hope to be a spiritually uplifting week. I don't believe it is too late for you to get your applications in as a camper; please get those turned in ASAP!

My sister and I are excited that our parents have moved in safely and completely into our little community, and we are happy that they are worshipping with us here at Carthage. Thank you for making them feel so welcome!

I love you, and may God bless you.

*--Sam Willcut*

## **NEWS & NOTES:**

**SICK:** Amos Glover, the 4-month-old we were asked to pray for, is making improvements. He is off the ventilator now and will hopefully be able to return home from Vanderbilt by the end of the month. Continue to keep sister Janice Hicks and Bobby and Lola King in your prayers at this time. Diane Freda, mother of Dan Freda, is in the hospital in Cookeville and would appreciate our prayers.

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is extended to the family of Tony Hackett in the recent passing of his brother, Johnny. Also, to Carolyn Harris and family as she has lost two relatives recently. Her sister-in-law, Linda Williams Ashford, passed away on June 10 and a stepdaughter, Lisa Harris Rich, passed away on June 18.

**WELCOME:** We would like to extend a warm welcome to Glen and Mariann Willcut, parents to Brother Sam and Teena Stout. They have expressed their desire to place membership and work under the oversight of the elders here at Carthage. Make sure to introduce yourself and do what you can to make them feel at home here.

**Continue to pray for the following:** Barbara Silcox; Barbara Jenkins; Brenda Copeland; Robert Johnson; Faye Maberry; Lola & Bobby King; Jimmy Fisher; Josie Powell; Helen Davis; James Spivey (Faye Maberry's brother-in-law); Robert Fields; Jerry Martin (cancer); Sherrie Lawrence; Kevin Howell (cancer – taking chemo & radiation treatments); Tucker Brown; Michelle Allen; Eva Louise Holt; Mary Ann Herd; Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson; Brenda Boyd; Linda Myers; Mikel and Janice Hicks; Cynthia Gibbs; Josephine Fitts; Brenda Fitts; Buckie Parsons; Chuck Jordan; Jerry & Mary Phillips; Hudson Anderson; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom & Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Colton Ferrell; Janice Wilson; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Todd Smith; John Jones; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis. **Please let Kristi know if there is anyone that needs to be added or removed from this list.**

**NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS:** Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

**THE MILITARY:** Korrey King – USMC (Grandson of Bobby & Lola King); Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

**THANK YOU NOTE:** A thank you card was written to the church from Merissa Spivey in appreciation of the recognition at the meal and the gifts she received in honor of her graduation.

**AREA EVENTS:** *VBS* at the Sycamore church of Christ in Cookeville. June 30 – July 3, 6-8 PM nightly. *TNT* (Thursday Night Together) will be hosted by the Mauldins Thursday, June 27 at 6 PM. *Congregational Outing* to watch the Nashville Sounds baseball team will be Saturday, July 17. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** *SCHR Devo:* First Sundays of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. *JSCYC* July 14-19. *Annual Singing* will be held here at Carthage on August 2. Meal at 5:30; Singing at 7:00 PM.

## *Wee Little Man in Jericho* Chris Bolinger

*I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. -Psalm 32:5*

Tax collectors were extremely unpopular in Jesus' day. Rome ruled the Jewish homeland, and Jews considered the Roman Empire to be an oppressive regime. Tax collectors were Jews working for Rome, so they were seen as traitors by their countrymen. Rather than collecting just what Rome was owed, tax collectors cheated people out of extra money and then kept the extra funds.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector who had built a fortune on the backs of others in Jericho. When Jesus visited Jericho, Zacchaeus wanted to see him. But Zacchaeus was short. Really short. With a crowd of people around Jesus wherever he went, Zacchaeus would never get a glimpse of him. The chief tax collector had no choice but to debase himself, run ahead along the path that Jesus was walking, and climb a sycamore tree, just as a child or youth would do.

When Jesus came near the tree he said, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5). Zacchaeus couldn't believe it! Practically leaping from the tree, Zacchaeus hit the ground and received Jesus joyfully. Others, however, were not so joyful. They grumbled that Jesus had "gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner" (v. 7).

But the call from Jesus had transformed Zacchaeus' life. "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor," he said to Jesus. "And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, come to Zacchaeus and I will restore it fourfold" (v. 8). Jesus replied that salvation had come to him.

Like Zacchaeus all of us are sinners. Jesus calls us anyway, because he came "To seek and to save the lost" (v. 10). When we confess our sins to God – not hoping to hide them, not making excuses for them, but acknowledging them openly - God forgives the iniquity of our sins. **“But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.” 2 Samuel 12:23**