

Be still, and know I am God. (Psalm 46:10)
All things God works for the good. (Romans 8:28)
Cast all my anxiety on Him. (1 Peter 5:7)
Know whose I am! (1 John 3:1)
Trust in the Lord with all my heart. (Proverbs 3:5)
Open my eyes to see the truth. (Psalm 119:18)
Show me your ways, Lord. (Psalm 25:4)
Create in me a clean heart. (Psalm 51:10)
He who is in me is greater... (1 John 4:4)
Obeys the Lord my God. (Deut. 27:10)
Oh Lord, you are my strength & shield. (Psalm 28:7)
Let love and faithfulness never leave me. (Proverbs 3:4)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26 August 7, 2024 Number 16

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

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 Michael Hackett
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 Johnny Law
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 R.W. Vincent
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Pulpit Minister:

Sam Willcut
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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

Website: 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

615-735-0114 or 615-418-6637

“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

WORSHIP PREPARES US FOR HEAVEN!

As children of God, we are privileged to worship Him. We are to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) on each first day of the week (cf. Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor 16:1-2). Christians who forsake the assembly of worshipping God for inexcusable reasons are shameful to our Father in heaven! Christians who attend the worship services but do not sing or rather converse with the person sitting next to them are not affording themselves the privileges of worship. Every time we worship God, we are preparing ourselves for heaven.

Have you ever wondered what we will be doing for eternity in heaven? We will be worshipping God, since heaven is a place where worship takes place, a place filled with beings who worship God. For example, we see in Luke 2:13-14 that heavenly angels can worship God. Thus, God allowed the apostle John to catch a glimpse of what heaven will be like in the book of Revelation. Notice these passages to see what will take place in heaven:

“...[T]he twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created” (Rev 4:10-11; cf. 7:11-12; 11:16-17).

“And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: ‘Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!’ Then the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the twenty-four elders fell and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever” (Rev 5:9-14).

“They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water’ (Rev 14:3, 6-7).

“They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone art holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested’ (Rev 15:3-4).

Since worshipping God is taking place in heaven, those who do not enjoy the worship services need to take heed—you will not enjoy heaven! Heaven is a prepared place for people who are prepared to worship God!

--Sam Willcut

From the preacher's heart...

As I sit here this morning and contemplate the last several weeks, I am reminded of how blessed we are at Carthage! Last Sunday, while we were encouraged with a wonderful assembly, a decent retention to stay for Bible class, and a modest amount that stayed for the second service thereafter, it does leave some room for definite growth on our part. Since the elders decided not to have an evening service on Sundays, it not only provides an opportunity to be supportive of area congregational activities and other functions, but it necessitates our part to be supportive of all the morning services of the congregation, if possible. As usual, your involvement in these services will only be to your benefit.

We not only enjoyed a tremendous time of fellowship during our most recent fourth Sunday meal, but we also were uplifted by our Annual Friday Night Singing last week. The 92 who were in attendance were edified in song, and relished the rich fellowship that also took place. We had dozens of song leaders, as well as representatives from many congregations in the mid-Tennessee area. We wish to offer a big "Thank You!" to all the members who cooked, set up, cleaned up, organized and supported our annual event, and as we consider whether the Lord will allow us to have another one next year, if so, we would desire to have even greater attendance and support!

We are nearing the end of our gathering supplies for the Magi Boxes, as they should be assembled this weekend. We appreciate all who participated in this benevolent activity, as well as for Josh & Becca Brown for organizing it, and we pray that much good will be done for the children in Honduras who will receive these!

We are also gearing up for Bible Bowl, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, hosted by the Sycamore congregation in Cookeville and held on the campus of TTU. Our young people have already begun studying the book of Second Samuel, and I have already begun preaching sermons with lessons gleaned from this Old Testament book to enhance their learning of such (next Sunday, we will study about David & Bathsheba). We appreciate those who are providing suppers for our young people on Wednesday nights leading up to this event, and to the adults and parents who are studying God's word with them.

Finally, I want you to know that while I am in my office most every day of the week, I am committing Wednesdays to be available should you need to see me, desire any type of counseling, or generally just want to come by and talk. If I am in my office, my side door will be open as you pass the north side of the building, letting you know that I am here.

May God bless our teachers and students who have begun their first full week of classes earlier this week! I love you all, and may God bless you.

-Sam Willcut

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Mary Jo Hackett is continuing to make some progress in her recovery from her recent hip surgery. Carolyn Harris was sick with pneumonia last week. Continue to keep her in your prayers that she regains her normal state of health soon. Linda Myers has requested prayers for her and her husband, Blythe.

CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES: *Happy Haven Dinner* will be on September 5 at 6:30 PM at the Leslie Town Centre in Cookeville. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. *Magi Boxes* will be packed Saturday, August 10 at 6:30 PM in the annex. An outdoor movie will follow the packing.

Continue to pray for the following: Carol Taylor; Dimple Hicks; Louise Eldridge; Barbara Silcox; Barbara Jenkins; Brenda Copeland; Faye Maberry; Lola & Bobby King; Jimmy Fisher; James Spivey (Faye Maberry's brother-in-law); Jerry Martin (cancer); Sherrie Lawrence; 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; Jerry & Mary Phillips; Hudson Anderson; Tom & Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Scott Bane; Patricia Brooks; Dayton Jamison; 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).

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES: Cheryl Hicks (4); Hannah Rutherford, Gail Vincent (10); Larry Silcox (13); Charlotte Henry (20); Harper Whitaker (21); Misty Smith (22); Lelani Faustina (24); Sarah Mauldin, Laura Piper (27); Barry Cohoon, David Stout (30); Pat Paysinger (31). Chris & Amanda Hicks (8/5/2006); Jim & Kathleen Replogle (8/6/1977); Tony & Mary Jo Hackett (8/25/1984); Rick & Melinda Spivey (8/30)

“May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15:13

AREA EVENTS: *Men's Fellowship* at the Clearview church of Christ Saturday, August 10 from 9AM-2 PM. *Men's Seminar* at the East Main church of Christ in Murfreesboro, Sat, August 10. The van will be leaving the building at 7AM. Contact Jeremy Hassler or RW Vincent if you would like to go. *Gospel Meeting* at the Brush Creek church of Christ with speaker Edward Anderson August 11-14. Sun 9 & 10 AM; Mon-Wed 7 PM. *Upper Cumberland Men's Day* at the Sycamore church of Christ with speaker Willie Franklin Saturday, August 24. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 AM, sessions starting at 8:15 AM, and lunch provided at 11:30 AM. *Ladies' Day* at the Philippi church of Christ with speaker Karri Tucker. Sat, Sept. 21, 9 AM-1 PM.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *SCHR Devo:* First Sundays of Feb, May, Aug, and Nov. *Bible Bowl* September 7 at TTU. *Gospel Meeting* with Brother Charles Williams will be October 27-30.

Better Things

Men dream of paradise. Idyllic images of beauty and peace occupy our thoughts. But wistful longing is no substitute for the steadfast hope that is ours in Christ. Troubled disciples were encouraged to believe in better things at Christ's return (Jn. 14:1-3). With minds set on better things, we sing about *“treasures...laid up, somewhere beyond the blue.”*

Storing up treasures for self does not make us “rich toward God” (Lk. 12:21). In fact, material prosperity can make it difficult to dream about heaven. This is because lurking in the weeds of material prosperity are great dangers – ingratitude, worldliness, and pride.

In many respects, first-century circumstances differ from present-day experience. Abject poverty was commonplace. For almost everyone, hardship was a way of life. For those who embraced Christ, persecution was a real threat. We can understand why John's description of heaven would have been especially meaningful to every first-century believer.

Imagine a place where every harmful and painful influence would be banished forever! (Rev. 7:16-17).

There are difficult and troublesome times in our day as well. Though many of our struggles seem mild by comparison to what was endured by our first-century brothers and sisters in Christ, they still pose a threat to our spiritual well-being. Even subtle and indirect forms of persecution create opportunities for compromise, leading to spiritual ruin. For that reason, we must strive with even greater diligence to keep our focus on that better place where all of life's injustices will be righted once for all and where true joy abides forever. Heaven is not a place we stumble upon by accident or blind luck. It is not a place found through our own intellect or strength. It is God's gracious reward for obedient trust in Him.

— Glen Elliott —