

Act justly • Love mercy

Walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

faith

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ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
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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)

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
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“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

From the preacher's heart...

We just finished Labor Day weekend, and for those who were traveling, we were praying for your safe returns! The holiday weekend certainly reflected in our numbers, and we are looking forward to everyone being back with us. We are overjoyed in the fact that we have had two recent restorations—Eric Haynie and Susan Klamm have recently responded and requested prayers as they are rededicating themselves to the Lord! Moreover, we recently enjoyed a time of fellowship together, and we are excited about the things that are before us in the days and weeks ahead!

This week, we are planning to attend the Happy Haven Celebration in Cookeville. Rather than just reserving one table, we now have three (3) tables reserved! We are looking forward to our time together and helping the children at Happy Haven. A big thanks in advance to everyone who attended!

Also, this week is our Annual Bible Bowl, wherein a baker's dozen of our children will be testing their knowledge of Second Samuel. We not only appreciate all our children who have enriched their learning, but we also appreciate the parents and adults who have spent time with them teaching, training, and feeding them at various times for the past many weeks! I am sure that more will be said about this later, Lord willing.

Our Annual Fish Fry will coincide with William Walton Day, Saturday, September 28. Please plan to be here with us on this day. Moreover, our gospel meeting with Charles Williams is being planned for October 27-30. There are several other activities that are on the horizon, and more will be announced as the time draws closer.

I would like to note a few of our young people who were highlighted recently in our local Carthage Courier newspaper. Both Aubrey and Scarlett Hicks were part of the Smith County 4-H Open Livestock Contest Group, with Scarlett Hicks placing 2nd place overall in Junior Livestock Judging Team and 7th place individually. Moreover, Dayne Swann's 5th grade class at DES was highlighted for learning about the Reconstruction Era after the Civil War with help from the Tennessee State Museum. Finally, Jessa Klamm was featured with her 2024 12U Softball All-Star team. Congratulations to all these fine young people!

We have a lot of members, family, and friends who need our prayers. If you need me, I'm always available. I love you all, and may God bless each and every one of you.

-Sam Willcut

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Sharon Shoopman, a coworker of Melissa Willcut, is still in St. Thomas West in Nashville. Scott Johnson has been dealing with kidney and bladder infections this week. Emberly O'Connor, three-year-old relative of James & Regina Rowland, had a kidney removed last week after having several rounds of chemo treatment.

SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to the family of Ricky Branham who passed away Thursday, August 29.

CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES: *Happy Haven Dinner* will be on September 5 at 6:30 PM at the Leslie Town Centre in Cookeville. *Bible Bowl* will be this Saturday, Sept. 7 at the TTU Hooper Eblen Center in Cookeville. *Building Clean-up Day* Saturday, September 14 starting at 8:00 AM. We will be cleaning out rooms in the basement, the annex, and from the storage building in the back. This will be the deadline to claim any of the student desks as we will be disposing of what is left on this day.

Continue to pray for the following: Joe Kemp; Carol Taylor; Dimple Hicks; Louise Eldridge; Barbara Silcox; Barbara Jenkins; Brenda Copeland; Faye Maberry; Lola & Bobby King; 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 & Blythe 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: Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in); Bobby King (Quality – Lebanon).

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES: Happy Birthday to Dusty Whitaker (9/5); Teddy Spivey; David Maberry (9/6); Lola King (9/8); Susan Law, Amanda Cowan (9/9); Mia Whitaker (9/10); Jessica Grim (9/11); Alex Richmond, Janice Hicks (9/13); Taylor Swann (9/19); Jessa Klamm (9/26); Julie Wright, Aubrey Hicks (9/27); James Rowland (9/28)! Happy anniversary to Conner & Morgan Dodson (9/8/2018); J. Edward & Emma Trainham (9/11/2021)! "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4

AREA EVENTS: *Gospel Meeting* at McCoinsville church of Christ with David Lipe Sept. 8-11, 7 PM Nightly. *Gospel Meeting* at Flat Rock church of Christ with Tim McHenry Sept. 8-11, 7:30 PM Nightly. *Gospel Meeting* at Jere Whitson Rd. church of Christ in Cookeville with David McPherson Sept. 8-13, Sun 5PM, M-F 7PM. *Gospel Meeting* at Union Hill church of Christ in Jackson County with Dwight Fuqua. Sept. 15-18 Sun. 9&10 AM and 1:30 PM; M-W 7 PM. *Ladies' Day* at the Philippi church of Christ with speaker Karri Tucker. Sat, Sept. 21, 9 AM-1 PM. *Gospel Meeting* at the Willette church of Christ Sept. 22-25 with Chad Ramsey. Sun. 9 AM, 10AM, 6 PM, M-W 7PM. *Gospel Meeting* at Watertown church of Christ with Tyler Alverson Sept. 22-25, 7 PM Nightly. *Ladies' Day* at the Jefferson Ave. church of Christ in Cookeville. Speaker: Lacie Haynes. Sept. 28, 9AM-Noon.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *SCHR Devo*: First Sundays of Feb, May, Aug, and Nov. *Bible Bowl* September 7 at TTU. *Run4Don* will be Saturday, September 21 in Gainesboro. *Gospel Meeting* with Brother Charles Williams will be October 27-30.

The Bible and Unicorns

"The Bible is full of Jewish myths and legends and certainly not some divinely delivered revelation." Perhaps you have heard this or similar statements before. Did this shake your faith or plant serious questions in your mind? That is exactly what Satan intended such statements to plant in your mind. He does not have to convince you to abandon God or His Word, just seriously question it.

In an attempt to prove the "Bible is full of myths" hypotheses some critics point to a statement in Numbers 23:22 (KJV). There Barak's attempt to persuade Baalam to curse Israel is recorded. That passage reads: "God brought them out of Egypt; He hath as it were the strength of a unicorn."

At the risk of shattering some childhood notions, unicorns are not real. Horse-like creatures with a single large horn protruding from their head are the product of man's imagination -in other words a myth. So, there you have it. The Bible contains myths so how can we trust anything it says and how do we determine truth from myth. Since myths have no counterpart in historical truth, they are worthless sources of truth.

The KJV speaks of unicorns 9 times. Only two early English translations speak of a unicorn (King James Version and the Geneva Bible). More recent translations speak of an oxlike creature. When read and understood in the context of 17th century English the problem disappears. Even as late as the end of the 19th century this word was commonly used to speak of the rhinoceros. Even the scientific name for rhinoceros reflects the same ("rhinoceros unicornis").

However, unicorns were never mentioned in the original languages of the Bible. The Hebrew word *re'em* (also *re'em*) is "wild ox." The word *re'em* refers to a long-horned animal. Psalm 92:10 in the KJV reads: "But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of a unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil." Unicorns in the Bible are not like the fairy tales. Unicorns are actual animals; they are powerful with either one or two horns.

Does the Bible speak of unicorns? Yes, it does. Are these the mythical horse-like creatures with a single horn riding on rainbows? Absolutely not. When the critics objections are placed under the microscope of truth they fall and hold no truth. Embrace your Bible with faith and trust. Read it for what it is, the inspired Word of God.

John A. Smith, Church of Christ at Greenwood, IN

CONFESSION

Confession is the acknowledgement of something in our lives. Christianity (the point of salvation) begins by confessing (freely acknowledging through personal faith) Jesus for whom He is (Matthew 10:32-33). Great men and women always confess. Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (16:16). The gospel of John records five confessions (John 1:49; 4:29; 6:69; 11:27; 20:28). Consequently, confession is repeated in scripture as necessary for our salvation (Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 2:23; 4:2-3, 15; 2 John 1:7). Yet, confessing our faith is not always easy. Even after Peter confessed Jesus twice, he later denied Jesus when the situation was different.

Confession is also important to the daily life of a Christian, because we are to confess our sins. God promised the blessing of forgiveness of sins to His children who will confess them (James 5:16; 1 John 1:9). Spiritual healing comes by confession. Like the confession of our faith, confession of sins is also difficult. People have a hard time admitting, "I have sinned." Yet, God requires it to be pleasing to him (1 John 1:8). The confession of the prodigal son is a perfect example by Christ to show the heart of the confessor (Luke 15:18-19). In direct contrast, Achan did not confess his sin until it was too late (Joshua 7:19-21). Like him, many will wait until it is too late (Philippians 2:10-11).

Thus, according to the apostle John, for erring Christians to remove the guilt of sin and its consequences, we must "confess our sins," which we do before and to the one against whom we commit the sin. Please note that we are not confessing that we are sinners or that we have sinned, but we should understand clearly why we are specifically to "confess our sins." One word of caution is necessary—the Bible says to "confess" them but does not say to "report" them. In other words, while we are to be honest and sincere with our offenses, God does not want us to blab all the gory details about such to everyone. May we understand the tact and wisdom necessary to distinguish the two!

Therefore, as we see in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, forgiveness was the resultant attitude of the Father who replaced the ring of sonship, the robe of righteousness and the shoes of freedom (Luke 15:22)! When the child departs in sin but returns to the favor of the Father in confession, our Lord makes the reception of the child a very beautiful thing! Will you confess Him too late?

--Sam Willcut