

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

What is the “message of the cross” that Paul writes about in 1 Corinthians 1:18-21? It is simply the story of Jesus, the redemption plan for mankind. Later in the letter Paul will briefly retell the message in the following passage:

(1) Moreover brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand. (2) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you have believed in vain. (3) For I delivered to you first of all what which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Jesus gave an even more condensed version of the Gospel as He talked to Nicodemus in John chapter 3:

(16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:16-17). (Jay Launius, Maud church of Christ, Maud, TX)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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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)

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
(615 -735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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.
12:30 P.M. (Last Sunday of month)

Bible Study

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

Deacons:

Josh Brown
(931-319-9994)
Tony Hackett
(615-735-9037)
Steve Harper
(615-735-2651)
Chris Hicks
(615-418-6472)
Jerry Hicks
(615-418-6637)
Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)
Andy Rutherford
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Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net

Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
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“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

“A CUT ABOVE”

Edward L Anderson

The above caption dates to the early 1800’s. It describes something that is superior to examples of a similar nature. It refers to things of “a higher degree or stage”. It may well have originated from the tailoring industry and was probably used originally to describe the quality of clothing. However, it came to be used more generally to describe anything superior. It would then be very appropriate to use it to describe JESUS THE LORD for He is truly “A CUT ABOVE”.

His **birth** is “a cut above” all other births, for only He was born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14).

His **name** is “a cut above” all other names, for it is a name above all other names (Phil. 2:9-11).

His **law** is “a cut above” all other laws because it is “the perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25).

His **rule/authority** is “a cut above” all other rules and rulers because He has been given all authority in heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18-20).

His **church** is “a cut above” all other churches because He is its builder, head, and savior (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23).

His **love** is “a cut above” all other loves because He laid down His life for all, even His enemies (Rom. 5:6-11).

His **life** is a cut above” because “He did no sin, neither was guile in His mouth” (1 Peter 2:22; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15).

His **blood** is “a cut above” the blood of bulls and goats which could not take away our sins (Heb. 9:11-15).

His **death** is “a cut above” all other deaths because He tasted death for everyone (Heb. 2:9).

WHY NOT GIVE AND LIVE YOUR LIFE TO HIM?!

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

WELCOME VISITORS! A warm welcome to you! We are honored by your presence and are delighted you came our way. If new to our area, we would be happy to have you for all our services listed in this bulletin. If you would like to study the Scriptures, please let us know. We encourage all to bring your Bible that we may study God's Word together.

To our members: Be sure to greet our guests and make them feel welcome. Hospitality is a Christian virtue (Heb. 13:2; Matt. 25:35). Be faithful in attendance and invite others to attend our services.

Our attendance was down a bit from the two previous Sundays, but as noted above, we were blessed to have visitors. Worship of God, rendered in spirit and truth, is vital to good spiritual health. A recognition of His generous gifts and appreciation for the ultimate one – His beloved Son, will lead us to regularly and generously give as we have prospered.

As we write these lines there is only one week remaining in 2023. We are reminded that life is, indeed, the “vapor” James used to describe it (James 4:14). Every moment of time is precious and should be put to good use. Paul used the word “redeem” to describe our relationship to time (Eph.5:16). Let us resolve to use time more wisely and always as God would have us to. That would be to His honor and glory!

Thanks to Justin Mauldin for the good lesson on the past fifth Sunday. I appreciate him as a co-worker and commend him for all he does with the youth program. Encourage him and Sarah in their service.

We did not have the 11:00 A.M. service on Sunday due to hosting Smith County Youth Night at 5:00 P.M. It was well attended with 145 people from several congregations in the county and perhaps some outside the county. Seeing all the precious young ones gives us hope. Scott Jeffcoat from Sycamore (Cookeville) delivered an excellent and very practical sermon about “Memorable Moments”. Thanks, Scott! A big THANK YOU to those who brought food, helped serve, and did clean up!

We trust everyone will have a good rest of the week and will make plans to be present on Sunday. Hope to see you a little before nine.

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Mary Jo Hackett suffered a fall resulting in dislocating the recent hip replacement. Carolyn Harris is recuperating at home. Frances Stewart has not been feeling well. Hannah Rutherford is recovering from recent carpal tunnel surgery. Prayers are requested for Robert Fields, who is in the nursing home (Westmoreland), following a stroke. Candice Richmond is back with us after a stomach bug. Brenda Copeland, sister to Cheryl Hicks, needs our prayers. Linda and Blythe Myers request our continued prayers. Continue to remember Darrell Vincent, R. W.'s brother. So good to see Lola King with us Sunday. Keep Lola and Bobby in your prayers. Joe Kemp is recovering from recent surgery. Faye Maberry was able to be present Sunday. Janice Hicks and her family need our prayers. Her dad, John Gregory, has returned to SCHC. Eric Haynie has improved and was able to be with us recently. Jennifer Johnson requests our prayers. Continue to pray for the following: Josie Powell; Larry Cole; Helen Davis; James Spivey (Faye Maberry's brother-in-law); Jerry Martin (cancer); Sherrie Lawrence; Leah Crabtree; Kevin Howell (cancer – taking chemo & radiation treatments); Tucker Brown; Michelle Allen; Eva Louise Holt; Scott Apple; Ronnie Glover; Mary Ann Herd; Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson; Brenda Boyd; Linda Myers; Mikel and Janice Hicks; Cynthia Gibbs; Josephine Fitts; Buckie Parsons; Garmon Vincent; Brenda Copeland; Chuck Jordan; Jerry and Mary Phillips; Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Janice Wilson; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis.

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); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) and Landon Carter (Coast Guard); Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is expressed to the following families: Larry Dudney of Gainesboro and a former member here, whose funeral was Saturday in Gainesboro.

EVENT CALENDAR: **SCHR Devo:** First Sundays of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov.; **Pavilion Devo:** March.31, 2:00 PM.

AREA EVENTS: Gospel Meetings: Willow Avenue (Cookeville), Jan. 14-17, 2024, with different speakers (See posted advertisement for times and preachers). **Friday Night Singing:** Rome church of Christ, February 2, 7:00 P.M. (Meal at 6:00 P.M.); **Marriage Retreat:** Great Smoky Mountains Marriage Retreat, February 14-18, 2024, Theme: “Climbing to Greater Heights Together”. (See posted info.)

AREA-WIDE GOSPEL MEETING: March 3-7, 2024, with Jeff Archey preaching at the Smith County Ag Center.

POTTER'S CHILDREN'S HOME COMMODITY OUTREACH: The truck will be here the week of January 21. Pantry items needed: Splenda; Marshmallows Crème; Sweet Relish; Mayonnaise; and Crisco. Your family may also donate \$15.00 for perishable items.

THANK YOU: The church has received and read “Thank You” cards from the following families: Janice Hicks family and Linda Myers family.

HOUSE TO HOUSE: The current issue is now available in the foyer and on the table at the west annex entrance/exit. Pick up a copy, read it, and pass it on to a friend or neighbor. It is informative and has something for the entire family.

2024 BUDGET: Copies of the 2024 budget are also available in the foyer. The elders presented it to the congregation Sunday morning. It will reflect a slight increase over 2023. Keep all the works we support in your prayers.

THINK ABOUT IT:

If you only pray when you're in trouble..., you're in trouble. (1 Thess. 5:17)

“It's hard to stay in shape spiritually if you only work out on Sunday.” (Luke 9:23)

“Give a man a match, and he will be warm for a minute, but set him on fire, and he will be warm for the rest of his life.”

“Sometimes less is more.”

“I am the way, the truth, and the life... (John 14:6).