

I Am with You

Various ones throughout the Bible were given the same encouraging, bolstering, motivating message. Abraham was told: “*God is with you*” (**Gen. 21:22**). Isaac was told: “the Lord is *with you*” (**Gen. 26:28**). Israel was told: “*the Lord your God is with you*” (**Deut. 20:1**). Joshua was told: “*the Lord your God is with you*” (**Josh. 1:9**). Gideon was told: “*The Lord is with you*” (**Judg. 6:12**). King Saul was told: “God is *with you*” (**1 Sam. 10:7**). David was told: “*the Lord is with you*” (**2 Sam. 7:3**). King Asa was told: “*The Lord is with you while you are with Him*” (**2 Chron. 15:2**). Judah was told: “*the Lord is with you*” (**2 Chron. 20:17**). Mary was told: “*the Lord is with you*” (**Luke 1:28**).

The Lord said to Isaac, “*I am with you*” (**Gen. 26:24**), to Jacob, “*I am with you*” (**Gen. 28:15**), to Israel, “*I am with you*” (**Isa. 41:10; 43:5**), to Jeremiah, “*I am with you*” (**Jer. 1:8, 19; 15:20**), to Judah, “*I am with you*” (**Jer. 30:11; 46:28**), to the returning remnant, “*I am with you*” (**Hag. 1:13; 2:4**).

Yes, He says to you, “*I am with you always*” (**Matt. 28:20**)! Encouraging, bolstering, motivating! Don’t ever forget it or doubt it!

David Sproule, Palm Beach Lakes, Florida

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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“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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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”

EAGER SERVICE

Christians sometimes have a crisis in understanding the value of the correct cause for our service. God intended the blessings of atonement and the opportunity to serve as Christian priests (1 Pet 2:5, 9) to produce within us a spirit of eager service. In other words, God does not want unenthusiastic service.

For example, the offerings the Israelites gave for the construction of the tabernacle required “*a willing heart*” (Ex 25:1-2; 35:4-5, 20-29; 36:2-7). That is the only type of service that God desires. Jesus said to the church in Laodicea, “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me*” (Rev 3:20). This conveys the fact that He desires eager service, because He is not going to force Himself on anyone, neither does He desire mandatory service. It is true that the New Testament uses the word for “*servant*” as a reference to Christians, but it always comes in a different context, and it has a different incentive to the degree that Christians are concerned.

Therefore, Christians need to read parts of the Bible that motivate us to desire to serve God. Sometimes, teachers and preachers may have ignored these to give enough attention to the parts of the Bible that set forth God’s goodness, greatness, mercy, and love to desire to motivate people to do what they ought to do. Maybe in countering denominational error, Christians have given a good deal of time to presenting why and where error is wrong, but that is only half of it. Not only do Christians need to prove what both truth and error are, but we also need to apply the Bible as a way of motivating people. This is one of the things that has advanced the gimmick business in the church today, where there are so many gimmicks to motivate Christians to do what they ought to desire to do, not have to do. In other words, what Christians need to do is to allow the Bible and its values to motivate others.

The Bible sets forth the merits and values of spiritual things. We need to help people appreciate spiritual things, so this is what they desire. The effect will be a spiritual life because these values appeal to him and cause him to live for these principles—these are the desires of his heart. Therefore, these things will come first (Matt 6:33), not just because God said it, but because he comes to a gratitude that within the kingdom of God are the greatest things of life. These are going to be first in his life. Other things will be secondary because here is where one finds genuine living.

For example, Jesus said in John 10:10, “*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*” Think about how much emptiness there is in the lives of people today. People are probing all over for some reason and sense in life. They don’t know where to find it. Satan has deceived the world with the idea that the way to miss everything in life that is valuable is to be a Christian—that God removes almost everything that is enjoyable and good. Satan has not pawned off a bigger sham on humanity that that—to be encouraged to think that worldly living and the failure to value spiritual things is where one finds genuine living. Yet, the only worthwhile living in the whole world is living for spiritual things. Christians need to develop this outlook towards them, as it will create eager service in our lives.

--Sam Willcutt

From the preacher's heart...

What a joy to be a member at Carthage! We have had many visitors throughout the past couple of weeks, and a spirit of joy and cooperation among the members. You have been very kind to me regarding the lessons. As of this week, we have several of our families attending "Polishing the Pulpit" in Sevierville—the Browns, the Hasslers, the Stouts, and my parents, Glen & Mariann Willcut. Please join me in praying for their safe return this weekend.

We have had a few area congregational events that we have been able to support. Last week, we had twenty members from Carthage to support the Brush Creek gospel meeting, and that was just on Tuesday night (this does not count the number of members who supported many of the other services)! Earlier this week, we have had members to support the gospel meeting in Hartsville. This is a tremendous blessing!

On Thursday night, September 5, we are planning to attend the Happy Haven Celebration in Cookeville. Rather than just reserving one table, we were ambitious and reserved two tables (for 16), and as of right now, we have fourteen going! There are only two more spots left! Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer before it is too late!

We have had several members and families involved in preparing our young people for Bible Bowl, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, hosted by the Sycamore congregation in Cookeville and held on the campus of TTU. For many weeks now, they have been studying the book of Second Samuel, and I only have a few more lessons prepared from this great Old Testament book (two more Sundays). Again, 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.

Speaking of our young people, we are excited about the opportunities for Lads to Leaders. If you would like to become involved with this youth ministry (or need more information), please see Justin Mauldin.

I am so very impressed by the number of members who are quite the students of the Bible, but I have seen the depressingly low number of daily Bible readers. Please make a note of this and let us all resolve to do the very best we can and read our Bibles every day!

This next Sunday, we will be having our Fourth Sunday Singing during the second service, and a fellowship meal afterwards. I hope you will plan to stay and join me then!

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: Michelle Allen has requested prayers for her son, Avery Allen, who is in therapy in Hartsville. Sharon Shoopman, a coworker of Melissa Willcut, is still in St. Thomas West in Nashville, and she is not doing very well. Scott Johnson has requested prayers for his wife, Jennifer. Buck King is in Quality Nursing Home in Lebanon. If you are able, please send him a card or letter of encouragement. The address is ***Bobby King c/o Quality Rehab 932 East Baddour Parkway Lebanon, TN 37087 Room #111B.*** We had several to be away this last Sunday due to illness: Richard Bowman (upper respiratory problems), Dimple Hicks, and Kenneth Kidd. Emry Jones, a sophomore at SCHS, is now home after a tragic automobile accident and has an extensive recovery ahead of her.

CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES: Fellowship meal We will have our fourth Sunday singing during the second service on August 25 with a fellowship meal to follow. Please make plans to attend. ***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. There are only 2 spots remaining!!

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 & 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: 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).

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

AREA EVENTS: *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. **Gospel Meeting** at the Willette church of Christ Sept. 22-25 with Chad Ramsey. Sun. 9 AM, 10AM, 6 PM, M-W 7PM. **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.

Instant Wealth

*"The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage,
But everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty."*

(Proverbs 21:5)

Lotteries and Casinos. Both exist because of the same reason: people are looking for ways to get rich...and now! Occasionally we'll hear of someone hitting the jackpot and becoming an instant millionaire. But honestly. How many out of the millions that play truly win? Ever noticed the size and beauty of the casinos? They were able to build these elaborate buildings off the money they make from the foolish gamblers. Plus, how many stories do we hear about wrecked lives from people that squandered their wealth? Those stories are buried on purpose! They don't want us to know that ugly side.

God set the example of work in His creative process. He worked for six days and rested on the seventh (Gen 2:2). It is His intention that mankind do the same. As a result, those desiring to strike it rich are operating outside of the divine plan. They are violating several spiritual principles.

First, God intends for man to work. Those desiring to get rich quickly are hoping to skip this divine step (Ex 20:9-10; 31:15; 34:21).

Second, God intends for man to give his best effort in his work (Col 3:23-24; Eph 4:6:7; 1 Thess 4:11; 2 Thess 3:10-12). Those seeking instant wealth typically give half-hearted efforts. Their focus is not on doing quality work, but their mind is drifting, thinking of instant wealth.

Third, those seeking to get rich quickly are guilty of covetousness and greed (Pro 28:20; Col 3:3; 1 Tim 6:9-10).

Fourth, such a person is in partnership with the lazy. The lazy want others to enrich them (Pro 10:4; 12:24, 27; 13:4). Scripture teaches that both the hasty and the lazy end up in the same place: poverty (cf. Pro 6:10-11; 24:33-34).

The first part of this proverb presents the better approach. Our plan (to acquire wealth) is to be "diligent." That word means to be steadfast and persistent in our work. We are going to go slow, give our best work, and anticipate blessings from that approach. Solomon says that such will "lead surely to advantage." Why will it work? Because it is God's design! Time to get to work!
