

## THE FINAL JUDGMENT

- \* All of the nations of the earth who have ever lived will be present (Matt. 25:32).
- \* The Word of God will be the standard of judgment—not the creed books written by men (John 12:48).
- \* We will be judged on the basis of our deeds and not just our attitude (Rom. 2:6).
- \* No “warning signs” will be given prior to the return of Christ (Matt. 24:36).
- \* Christ will return at an unexpected time, during normal circumstances upon the earth (2 Peter 3:10).
- \* When Christ returns “every eye shall see Him,” not just the redeemed (Rev. 1:7).
- \* For some, it will be a day of unspeakable joy (Rev. 21:1-4).
- \* For others, it will be a day of horror (2 Thess. 1:6-8).
- \* When Christ returns, He will deliver the kingdom back to His Father (1 Cor. 15:24).
- \* There is no passage in the Bible which states Christ will ever set foot on this earth again—the Bible teaches that we will “meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thess.4:17).
- \* Once Christ receives His own they will “always” be with Him, not just for 1,000 years as some teach (1 Thess. 4:17).
- \* While we wait for the Lord to return we have the opportunity to repent (2 Peter 3:10).
- \* There is no second chance for men to repent after death (Heb. 9:27).
- \* Take comfort in the thought of His return (1 Thess. 4:18).  
-David Padfield, Zion (IL.) church of Christ-

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

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Number 20

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.  
6:00 P.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  
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(615-418-5050)  
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Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.  
(615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

For Transportation to Services  
615-735-0114 or 615-418-6637

**“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”**

## THE CHURCH’S FIRST UNITY TEST

By Neil Pollard

One of the most chilling phrases to church leadership might be, “a complaint arose” (Acts 6:1). Unhappiness, dissatisfaction, or feelings of unfairness all threaten distraction and difficulty among the body of believers. We can quickly break down the problem this way:

**The quibble.** Hellenistic Jews were being overlooked in the daily serving of food in the Jerusalem church (v. 1).

**The quandary:** Who should take care of the problem? The apostles responded, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables” (v. 2). The proposal ultimately allows them to do just that (vs. 4-7).

**The qualifications.** The apostles recommend finding seven men from among them, “men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom...” (v. 3). The people chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas” (v. 5).

**The quelling.** “The statement found approval with the whole congregations” (v. 5). The people were able to get back to the business of spreading the word and increasing the number of disciples (v. 7).

Every problem we face among us in congregations can be settled the same way today. Identify the problem, the biblical solution, and the right people to address it, then peace and success will follow. Never again do we read of the problem arising within the Jerusalem church. It is interesting to see that the men who were chosen to deal with a physical or material problem were spiritual men. Stephen, one of the “table waiters”, is described as “full of grace and power” (v. 8); a man “with the wisdom and the Spirit” (v. 10), even a man described as having a “face like the face of an angel” (v. 15). These opponents of Christianity are trying to undermine and put down the growth of Christianity (v. 7) and are willing to go to any lengths to do so (vs. 11-14). Stephen, who had already proven his worth by his compassionate, efficient handling of the Jerusalem church’s internal issue, is able to go on the offensive in sharing the Word.

Who does God to utilize to solve the practical dilemmas that threaten the church’s unity? Spiritual men, servant-hearted men, and skillful men! Men like Stephen and Philip, who are multi-talented – humble enough to get their hands dirty and holy enough to get the gospel out to those in need of it.

Slightly adapted due to space limitations.

## **FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:**

VISITORS! A warm welcome is extended to you. We are delighted you came our way. If you are traveling, may your travels be safe and may God cause His face to shine upon you (Num. 6:24-26). If you recently moved to this area, we hope you will be with us regularly. "Come now and let us reason together" (Isa. 1:18).

Attendance has been steady for the past few weeks, but it needs to be higher. You can help to increase it by being present yourself, by urging every family member to be present, and inviting others – relatives, friends, co-workers, etc. As we noted in Sunday's sermon, Bible reading is on the decline in the nation. So is "church attendance". There is most definitely a correlation between the serious moral issues we face as a society and these two discouraging trends. "Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on"!

It was good to be back in the pulpit here on Sunday after the Gospel Meeting with the nice brothers and sisters at Philadelphia just north of Lebanon. The folks there send their greetings to you. Thanks to those of you who came to be a part of that endeavor. Your attendance was an encouragement to the church and to me personally. A special thanks to Chris Hicks (Sunday morning), and Richard Bowman (Wednesday), for filling in for me in fine fashion. We are blessed to have so many faithful, willing, and talented brethren.

Let us all salute our young Bible Bowl participants! The eight participants are: Makenna Hassler; Ainsley Hassler; Haven Brown; Noah Brown; Jonah Mauldin; Aubrey Hicks; Scarlett Hicks; and Maizy Rutherford. We are justifiably proud of these girls and boys! The reading and study of the book of Joshua has challenged them. The time spent was not wasted. They have learned things which will serve them well throughout their lives. Thanks to the teachers/coaches and to those who have provided refreshments at the study sessions. Bible Bowl is this Saturday (October 8), at TTU's Hooper-Eblen Center. If you have never attended the event, let me urge you to do so. It will uplift you to observe hundreds of young people involved in such an event. Thanks to the Sycamore congregation which does an excellent job putting it all together.

The early autumn mornings with temps in the 40's have been refreshing after several weeks in 90's. Autumn grants a reprieve from the "dog days" of August as well as granting opportunity to harvest that which will sustain us through winter. God's creation of the seasons is truly amazing. Each serves a purpose. Jeremiah's words always come to mind about this time of year: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!" (Jer. 8:20). Hope to see you Sunday!

*Edward L. Anderson*

## **NEWS & NOTES:**

**SICK:** Little Davey Rutherford has had an ear infection, RSV, and strep but in much improved. Gail Vincent is recuperating from surgery last week surgery at Vanderbilt. Joseph Law remains in RRMC due to diabetic issues. Ruby Fisher is to undergo cataract surgery October 11. Ann Carter has been dealing with vertigo. Prayers are requested for Hudson Anderson (age 9) – grandson of John Foster, as he undergoes treatments following kidney surgery. Janice Hicks saw the doctor Monday due to high BP and severe pain. Josh Dillard is back home after hospitalization at Vanderbilt. Steve Harper is able to be with us. Lola King continues treatments. Bobby, Lola's husband, is improving. Faye Maberry was unable to be with us Sunday. Betty Carter continues to recuperate from stint surgery for a blocked artery. Tom and Sherry Culver were seriously injured in a recent auto accident. Prayers are requested. Dwayne Oldham has requested prayers on behalf of his granddaughter, Annika, who is very ill. Continue to remember Ciera Haffner in prayer. Continue to remember Sharon Halliburton, Tony Hackett's sister, in your prayers. Bob Fisher, Ruby's son, has completed his treatments for cancer. Remember Jerry and Mary Phillips in prayer. Prayers are requested for: Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife), who has cancer; Katy Yastic (Henry's granddaughter); Colton Ferrell; Josh Dillard; Derek Bush; Denise Griffin, Jean White; Mark Goad (Bagdad); Janice Wilson (stroke); Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Joy Conner; Barry and Teresa Harville; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall; Brenda Forrest; Bea Davis.

**NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS:** Wilma Richardson; Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains, Robbie North, Barbara Billington (Pavilion); Mary Searle, Knoxville nursing home; Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

**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); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss's grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

**ITEMS FOR TCH:** The truck from Tennessee Children's Home will be in our area Tuesday, October 18 to pick up any donated supplies. We are concentrating on toilet paper, paper towels, and white T-shirts (men's in assorted sizes). The list is posted on the bulletin board if you wish to donate other items.

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is expressed to the following families: Patty Piper in the passing of her cousin, David Goolsby (9/26/22); Michelle Allen in the passing of her cousin, Timothy Evert, of Murfreesboro, whose funeral was 9/21/22; Gary Glenn Colley, Sr., gospel preacher for many years. Funeral was today (10/5), in Memphis.

**THANK YOU:** The church has received and read Thank You notes from the following: Larry and Janice Silcox family for expressions of sympathy and love in their losses of their niece Kim and nephew Lucas; Jerry and Paula Bates for the contribution to the new medical camps project in the India mission work.

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November (as permitted by covid regulations), 2:00 PM; *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional:* 10/30/2022, 2:00 PM; *Bible Bowl:* October 8 at TTU.

**AREA EVENTS:** *Fall Lectureship:* Montrose church of Christ, October 16-19, with Drew Stafford speaking; PM; *Ladies' Day:* Findlay church of Christ (Sparta), Nov. 12, with Shelia Butt: "If the Shoe Fits" (Registration begins at 8:00 AM).

**COMMUNION PICKUP:** Anyone wishing to volunteer to pick up used communion cups for a month in 2023, please contact Elaine.

**ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS:** The monthly meeting will be this Lord's Day (10/9/22) at 4:30 PM in the annex. Agenda copies are available in the foyer.

### **BARBS... WITH A POINT**

You reap what you sow, and you also reap what you don't sow – you suffer the consequences of not doing anything (See Matt. 25:24-30).

When a nation has lost its morals, it has lost its moors and is like a ship adrift at sea.

When the cattle have gotten out, it is a little late to think about shutting the gate.

We lose our independence and liberties to the degree that we do not accept our responsibilities (Gal. 5:1).

We only help people, in the long run, when we help them to help themselves.