

🔗 **THE CHAIN OF SALVATION** 🔗

Every link in a chain is important. If one link is broken or missing, the chain is without value.

This principle is clearly followed in the Bible. It takes several things to save us. Some say that "Christ saves us," and that is all there is to it! But, friends, salvation is attributed to many factors, according to the Scriptures. For instance, we read in Romans 8:24 that we are "saved by hope." In Ephesians 2:8 we read, "for by grace are ye saved through faith..." In Romans 5:10 Paul informs us that salvation comes by the life of Christ. In Ephesians 1:7 we find that redemption is through the blood of Christ. John 3:16 tells us that believing is another link in the chain of salvation. In 2 Corinthians 7:10 we read that "Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation..." Paul further states that confession of Jesus as the Christ is part of the redemptive process (Romans 10:9-10).

Nearly every religious group agrees up to this point. How could we believe otherwise, when the Bible is so clear? But now we come to the two other necessary parts of the chain of salvation. In 1 Peter 3:21 we read, "The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ," Jesus added, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16).

The other link in this chain of salvation is found in Matthew 10:22. Here our Lord stated, "...But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Yes, the child of God must have endurance, or he will be lost.

Remember that salvation is a divine drama. There are two actors on the stage. God has a part to play; man has the other part. Have we fulfilled our role? Not unless we have been obedient to His commands. Let us see that no link in the chain of salvation is missing.

Have you broken the chain? (Johnny Ramsey, deceased)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
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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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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday Worship
9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
12:30 P.M. (Last Sunday of month)

Evangelist:
Edward L. Anderson
(615-735-2462)

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

Youth Minister:
Justin Mauldin

Secretary:
Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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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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For Transportation to Services
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"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

THE CRASH OF THE ASH (2)

Edward L Anderson

In the previous issue we called attention to the alarming loss of the ash tree, a major presence in the hardwood forests of the hills of home. This catastrophe is caused by the emerald ash borer which attacks the bark of the ash, much as the Asian bark fungus infected and began the destruction of 4 billion American chestnuts in the same geographical area a century ago. I recall the last two young chestnut trees eventually dying on our farm.

A recent trip to "the mountains" (Smokies) confirmed the condition of the ash. They now litter the forest floor, serving as "bridges" over streams for squirrels and other wildlife. These trees were once a major part of "The Great American Pastime" (baseball). The ash replaced the heavier hickory as bat material and was used almost exclusively in the manufacture of the famous Louisville Slugger bats. Henry Aaron reportedly used a Model 1426 Louisville Slugger. There was a very distinctive "crack" of the bat when the hardwood met the hard ball!

Can the ash be saved? There is a treatment plan IF infestation signs are caught early enough. Larger trees require a \$200-\$300 injection every few years, or a soil treatment. To treat all the trees and surrounding soil is a formidable task. But if you have an old ash as your favorite shade tree, it can be done.

Humans face a foe much greater than the boring beetle. Sin is the disease, and the devil is the carrier. Be reminded again, sin is common, very serious, and can even bring death (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). But it does not have to end in death because "The Great Physician" has the cure! Actually, Jesus is the "cure" for sin and our only hope of glory (Col. 1:27)! He came to die for our sins that we might be saved (John 3:16; Luke 19:10). His blood remits and cleanses the obedient penitent of and from sin (Matt. 26:28; 1 John 1:7, 9). It is through Jesus the Christ that the forgiveness of sins is preached (Acts 13:38). His gospel is God's power to save us from sin and keep us saved (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-2).

The apostle Paul, formerly Saul of Tarsus, was unsurpassed as a sinner. He described himself as "the chief of sinners" after stating "that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). He was a persistent and treacherous persecutor of the church, which is the spiritual body of Christ (See Acts 8:1-3; 9:5; Eph. 1:22-23). When told what to do to have his sins washed away, a humbled and penitent Paul complied immediately being baptized into Christ (See Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-16). If there is hope for such a sinner as Saul, truly there is hope for all! Will you come to Him (Matt. 11:28-30).

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

GREETINGS TO OUR 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 cordially invite you to be with us for all our services (see schedule on front of this bulletin).

Our attendance has been down the past couple of Sundays after being up March 5. A couple or three families have been out of town. Others have been dealing with illness. Our prayers are with you. There is a vast difference between reason and excuses. Try to resolve the reason and abandon the excuse. Let's all do our best to be present for every service and to do all we can for Jesus' sake.

The new House to House/Heart to Heart periodical is now available and ready to be picked up and read. Be sure your family gets at least one. Read them and pass them on to a friend or neighbor. There is always something for everyone in HtoH/HtoH!

We are collecting needed items for Tennessee Children's Home. You will find the list of items posted on the foyer bulletin board. Their truck will be in our area Tuesday, April 11. Bring any of the listed items you wish to donate and leave them on/under the pew on the south side of the annex door. Let us accept the challenge to be "ready unto every good work" (Titus 3:1).

Remember our Fellowship Meal this coming Sunday (26th), following morning services. Final worship will be at 12:00 noon.

Let me remind you of the periodicals, tracts, and other items available in the foyer, annex, and basement hallway. We also have books and other resources available in the library downstairs. Just a reminder to please return any books removed from the library. Current and back issues of The Spiritual Sword are available. We will be receiving the next issue in April. We will all be blessed by reading them along with our daily reading of the Scriptures.

Barbara and I enjoyed a few days in Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg, and Cades Cove last week and over the weekend. God's creation is beautiful to behold! We saw the early flowers' glow and a late winter snow! How about that for contrast? We always enjoy returning to the place we honeymooned more than fifty-six years ago. Thanks for the time away and a special thanks to Andy Rutherford and Chris Hicks for preaching while I was away.

May the Lord bless and keep you through the remainder of the week. I trust you and yours will be blessed with health, happiness, and hope. Pray the Lord to bring us together again to worship Him "in spirit and truth". I hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00 A.M. DST!

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Little Emery Dodson remains in Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. Prayer for her and Morgan and Conner, too. Carolyn Harris is still suffering with a back injury. Frances Stewart is recovering from recent knee surgery. Patty Piper was sick last week but is better. Barry Cohoon is still in a cast but going strong. Barbara Jenkins has been ill. Remember Janice Hicks in prayer as she deals with cancer. Ruby Fisher was sick Sunday. Lola King was unable to be with us Sunday. Sherry Gibbs Lawrence is now at home but is continuing therapy. Ken Lawrence, of Gordonsville, is now at home recovering from colon surgery. Josephine Fitts, mother of Carol Woodard, has been transferred to NHC in McMinnville. Faye Maberry needs our prayers as she deals with side effects from chemo. It is great to have Michelle Allen back with us. Good to see Steve Harper back in his usual spot. Prayers are requested for Chuck Jordan (cancer treatments); Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sonya Swallows (cancer); Bobby King; Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Betty Carter; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife); Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Janice Wilson (stroke); Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Robbie North (Pavilion – Carthage); Betty Denning (Mt. Juliet); 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); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss' grandson; Benjamin Gentry(USMC).

SYMPATHY: Sympathy is extended to the following: Kaylan Linder and family in the recent death of her grandfather, Cecil Poindexter, of Celina, TN; to the family of Jeff Hudson of Kempville, in his passing this week.

“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart: (2 Tim. 2:22).

APRIL BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Bryson Phillips (1); Peggy Faustina (3); Faye Maberry, Jonah Mauldin (8); Steven Claywell (9); Hale Wright (12); Cooper Phillips (15); Josh Brown (20); Brayden Blum (21); Michelle Allen (22); Bridget Austin, (24); John Dallas Hassler (26), Tammy Harper (28). Brian & Misty Smith (4/10/2010); Barry & Linda Cook 4/22/1996); Steve & Kim Bray (4/23/2009).

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November. *Pavilion Devotional:* Fifth Sundays at 2:00 P.M.; *Fish Fry:* Saturday, April 15, 4:00 PM; *Vacation Bible School:* June 5-9, 6:30 PM, Theme: “There's No Place Like Home”; *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023; *Retreat:* At TCC, October 5-8; *TCC Fundraiser:* November 4, 6:00 PM in annex; *Gospel Meeting:* November 5-8, with Dan Gulley preaching.

AREA EVENTS: Friday *Night Singing:* Montrose church of Christ, March 24, 7:00 PM – meal served beginning at 5:00 PM; *Gospel Meetings:* Lafayette church of Christ, March 26-29, with John Nichols preaching, 7:00 P.M.; Sycamore church of Christ, April 16-19, with John Deberry, 6:30 PM.; *Ladies Day:* East Main church of Christ (Murfreesboro), April 15, with Traci Sproule.

WEDDING SHOWER BY MAIL:

Let's shower the bride and groom,
ANDREA BRUALL and JAKE AZBELL

IT'S DIFFICULT TO LIVE SO FAR AWAY
WHEN A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING IS ON THE WAY
FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT ARE FAR AND WIDE
WISH THAT THEY COULD BE THERE BY THEIR SIDE
GATHERING EVERYONE IS JUST TOO HARD
SO INSTEAD, LET'S MAIL OUR GIFTS AND CARDS
AND AS THEY ARRIVE DAY BY DAY
THEY'LL FEEL OUR LOVE FROM FAR AWAY

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NOTE: Please see reverse sign of posted invitation for
details, directions, apps., and zoom link.