

MORAL ABSOLUTES?

How many times have you heard such statements as, “What you consider to be right or wrong may not be right or wrong to me”, or if you express a judgment on a moral issue, you hear the reply, “That is your opinion, but I have the right to my opinion”. This is moral relativism—the belief that there are no absolutes. It is more and more commonly held that morals are to be determined by evolving societal standards, with no absolute standard of right and wrong, moral and immoral. Such is the growing sentiment that is displacing the Bible as having validity in public life. As a consequence, human life is viewed as less sacred, sexual purity by biblical standards is outdated.

What it comes down to is that many now believe we have no clear word from God, such as in the Bible. What was once regarded as a God-fearing nation, a “city set on a hill”, is now being submerged in a cesspool of godless philosophies. Polls indicate that well over 60% of Americans do not believe in moral absolutes.

As we, as a nation, have abandoned God, is it any wonder that we are confronted with a growing threat of terrorism and lawlessness? A new generation is indoctrinated with secular humanism in our government-schools, where the Ten Commandments are anathema. Can divine judgment be far behind? We need to heed the words of the prophet Jeremiah, as he prayed, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23). We need to hear the prayer of Jesus for His followers: “Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth” (John 17:17). --Ron Bartanen, Arthur(IL) Church of Christ-

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

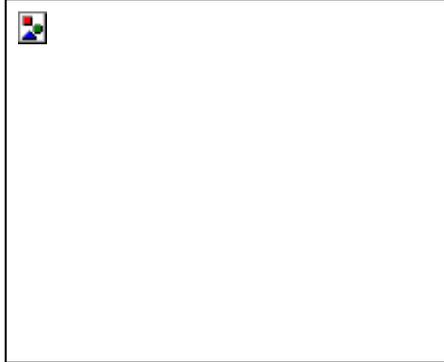
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711 N. Main Street
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Carthage, TN 37030
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“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)



MEETING PLACE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Barry Cook
(615-735-3194)
Michael Hackett
(615-735-7046)
Johnny Law
(615-735-1240)
Jerry Phillips
(615-735-0326)
R.W. Vincent
(615-735-0361)

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
615-735-2462

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)

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)
Jeremy Hassler
(931-335-1884)
Chris Hicks
(615-418-6472)
Jerry Hicks
(615-418-6637)
Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)
Andy Rutherford
(615-418-5050)
Dusty Whitaker
(615-709-1086)

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

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

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”

SOME THINGS WE NEED TO CLOSE

In the last issue of this bulletin, we wrote of things we need to open - our Bibles; our hearts; and our mouths. In this brief treatise, let's consider some things we need to close.

CLOSE the door to your “prayer room”. “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father...” (Matt. 6:6) Jesus often prayed in private and so should we. Such urgent and fervent prayer is powerful (James 5:16)! Jesus contrasts the prayer principles, purposes, and places of His disciples with those who put “prayer on parade”. Jesus described hypocrites who loved to pray in public places, like synagogues and street corners, to be “seen by men” (v. 5). He also condemned “heathen” practices of “vain repetitions” and thinking that “many words” (NKJ), or “much speaking” (KJV), equals acceptable prayer (v. 7).

CLOSE the mouth before the “venom” escapes. As noted in the preceding study, there is “a time to speak”, but there is also “a time to keep silence” (Eccl. 3). Perhaps it would be wise to pray fervently for wisdom to know when to do which! James exhorts: “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, **slow to speak**, slow to wrath” (James 1:19). Harsh, vulgar, obscene, hate-filled words harm and destroy. Cursing is common in public venues. Swearing has become a mere pastime. “Slang” speech, euphemisms, and suggestive innuendos are in vogue. BEWARE! The “whisperers”, “backbiters”, and “haters of God” of the first century are by no means extinct (See Rom. 1:29-30). Paul, however, in clear and precise language has this to say: “Let **no** corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth...” (Eph. 4:29, emphasis added). He goes on to say, “But that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”. This is the “speech always with grace, seasoned with salt” of Colossians 4:6.

CLOSE the door to temptation. Satan is subtle, cunning, and deceptive (Gen. 3:1; 2 Cor. 11:3). If he could “infiltrate” the Garden of Eden, we should not be surprised that he can, does, and has accomplished the same thing with “modern day technology”. Many youth and adults, male and female, are viewing pornography regularly via the internet and cell phones. Television, movies, and entertainment venues are used by the devil to weave a “cable” of drugs (alcohol is but one), gambling, immodesty, and other vices to hold captive his prey in the “cords” of sin (See Prov. 5:22). Spend more time with God's Word. Pray more. Worship faithfully with the saints. Develop an abhorrence for sin and an appetite, even an addiction, for what is good (See Rom. 12:9).

Edward L Anderson

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

VISITORS! A warm welcome is extended to you. We are delighted you came our way. May your travels be safe and may God's blessing be upon you. Please return at your earliest opportunity. If you live in the area, please consider assembling with us regularly.

Our attendance was excellent Sunday morning – highest of the year to date. We were blessed to have so many visit with us and be with their families over the holiday weekend. We were so blessed to be able to reminisce, worship together, and enjoy fellowship with one another. The family, as created by the Almighty, is a wonderful blessing. It should never be taken for granted. “God's Family”, the church, the body of Christ, which is one in number, is even more blessed! In it we enjoy “all spiritual blessings” (Eph. 1:3, 22, 23; 4:4).

Jesus teaches us the importance of a “visit”. His teaching about the Judgment Day includes “you visited me” and “you did not visit me” (Matt. 25:36, 43). A visit might determine our destiny and the destiny of others. Visits are being made to newcomers in our community and others. We never know what good will be done by these contacts. If you are not presently involved, contact Josh Brown and let him know of your desire to serve in this good work.

This Sunday will be the fourth Sunday of the month which means the morning services will be followed by a meal. The P.M. worship will be at 12:30 with the children's class at 12:15. The afternoon worship will be devoted primarily to singing praises to God.

The Fish Fry was well attended again this year. We were blessed by guests from the community, former members, and children and grandchildren of present members. A big “THANK YOU” to all who planned, prepared, purchased, and participated! The cooks are due our gratitude along with those who delivered food and cleaned up afterwards.

The egg hunt for the children was well attended and we had lots of plastic eggs filled with “goodies”! Barbara and I enjoyed hosting it for all our wonderful children. Thanks to all who brought refreshments, eggs, and your children and grandchildren. The games were fun and the fellowship sweet. May God bless all our “little ones” and their parents as they “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”.

I will be away this Sunday to begin a Gospel Meeting with the brothers and sisters at Zion (Jackson County). The meeting goes through Thursday evening with all evening services **at 7:00 P.M.** Andy Rutherford will preach Sunday morning and Justin Mauldin will teach the Wednesday night class. Please pray for the meeting.

Edward L. Anderson

NEWS & NOTES

SICK: Lola King was scheduled for an CT scan today (Wednesday). Maisy Rutherford underwent oral surgery Sunday night VCH (Nashville), due to dislodged teeth suffered in a fall. Steve Harper is awaiting an MRI on his injured shoulder. Sally Russell is now at home. Janice Anderson is recuperating from recent gall bladder surgery. Michelle Allen (hip surgery) and Barbara Anderson (knee replacement) continue to recuperate. Remember Donna and Brad Cowan in prayer as she deals with heart issues. Joy Conner (former member) requests our prayers for heart complications. Mary Jo Hackett was to have seen her doctor today about future surgery. Ted Gaw, known by many here, is recuperating from heart surgery. Mike Shoulders requests prayers as he deals with cancer and treatments. Faye Maberry requests prayers for her sister Laverne Hardee, who had surgery last Wednesday, and a niece Brenda Brawner (liver disease). Janice Hicks is still unable to be with us and requests continued prayers. Jerry and Mary Phillips are about the same. Prayers requested for Janice Wilson (stroke), mother of Todd (Allie) Smith who formerly attended here. Remember Joe Widick (pancreatic cancer); Dwight Fuqua (recurrence of cancer); Ciera Haffner; Jimmy Key; Drew Gallagher; Barry and Teresa Harville; Scott Bane (cancer); Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens (cancer); Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall (stroke); Brenda Forrest; Bea Davis; and Gary Vinson (cancer).

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham; (SCHR); Lonetta Bains, Robbie North, Jane Whitley, Barbara Billington (Pavilion); 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) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss' grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

BRIDAL SHOWER: There will be a Bridal Shower for Dalisa White and Brad Wilson, Sunday, April 24 from 3:30-4:30 PM at the Crieve Hall building (4806 Trousdale Drive, Nashville 37220). They are registered at Wayfair, Amazon, and Beth-Bath-Beyond. There is a gift basket here at the building for anyone who would like to give them a gift card or monetary gift (Today is the deadline for bringing gifts). They request our prayers as they begin their new home.

REMEMBER: “God's blessings grow and flourish when shared.”

MAY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Julia Lynne Grim (3); Kailee Austin (5); Candice Harper, Mallie Kate Whitaker (13); Pam Morris (16); Brittany Hackett (19); Cameron Spivey (22); Linda Dickens, Sherry Lester (23); Carolyn Harris (25); Emma Trainham, Rick Spivey (27); Chris Washer, (29); Morgan Dodson; (30). Steven & Kim Claywell (5/01/1990); Gerald & Patty Piper (5/03/1958), Kenneth & Debbie Kidd 5/03/1975); Andy & Hannah Rutherford (5/18/2018); James & Regina Rowland (5/23/1974).

SYMPATHY: To the following families: Barbara Jenkins, in the loss of her sister, Mary Ann Boyd, of Red Boiling Springs; Doug and Eric Swann in the passing of their grandmother, Mrs. Movaline Swann, whose funeral was Monday; the family of Joe Rich, well known by many of us. “Weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15).

MEMORIAL GIFT: The church recently received an anonymous memorial gift in honor of Gary Clemons, husband of former member Wanda Woodard Clemons.

THANK YOU: The church received and read a recent “Thank You” card from the Barbara Jenkins family.

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:** May 29, 2:00 PM; **Coffee/Fellowship:** First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 AM; **4th Sunday Schedule-April 24:** Fellowship meal, following the morning services, followed by the second service at 12:30 PM. **Youth Unite:** May 15, 5:00 P.M.; **Vacation Bible School:** “Fisher's of Men”, June 6-9; JSCYC: July 17:23; **Annual Friday Night Singing:** August 5; Gospel Meeting: Gary Hampton preaching, September 18-21.

AREA EVENTS: SEIBS Lectureship: (Karns, Knoxville), “A Call for Clarity in a Chaotic World”, April 24-27, 2022 (Program posted); **Singing:** Morrison church of Christ, April 22, 7:00 PM (Refreshments following); **Gospel Meetings:** Zion church of Christ, April 24-28, 7:00 PM, with Edward L Anderson; Crossville church of Christ, May 1-4, with Hugh Fulford, 6:00 P.M.; Findlay church of Christ, May 1-5, with Jonathan Burns, 7:00 P.M.; **Nashville School of Preaching:** Summer schedule: Tuesdays, May 10-June 28 (See Posted Schedule).

“He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage” (Proverbs 11:28).

“Evil pursues sinners, but to the righteous, good shall be repaid” (Proverbs 13:21).