

## Which Is Most Important?

Important

1. The condition and appearance of your house, or what goes on inside your house?
2. The time you spend on the condition and appearance of your body or the time you spend on the inner man?
3. Reading about life according to magazines and newspapers, or about "life" according to God's Word?
4. Loyalty to the company for which you work or loyalty to the church of which you are a member?
5. Being on time for work or being on time for Bible study?
6. The temperature of the building in which the church meets, or the "temperature" of the church which meets inside the building?
7. The number of people who are friendly to you, or the number of people to whom you are friendly?
8. What you think of the sermon, or what God thinks of your response to the sermon?
9. The food you put into your and your children's body, or the "food" you put into your and your children's mind and soul? (David Sain, via Seeking Things Above website)

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

April 5, 2023

Number 7

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:

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Andy Rutherford  
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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)

##### Bible Study

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

#### Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson  
(615-735-2462)

#### Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin

#### Secretary:

Elaine Wright  
(615-735-0114)

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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"**

## JUST AN OLD PAIL OF NAILS

Edward L. Anderson

The aluminum pail hanging high on a nail in the old barn was heavy to the touch. What could be in it? Upon inspection the "recycled" milk bucket was found to be more than half-filled with old nails! There were many different shapes and sizes with most being crooked, bent, and rusty. They were relics of bygone days when hardly anything was thrown away. Some probably dated back to The Depression and WWII, when metal was scarce and valuable. From this old pail of nails, we can draw valuable spiritual lessons.

**1. The nail has a point.** It must be pointed in the right direction. We, too, must be "pointed" in the right direction (Matt. 7:13-14). The life pursuant of truth and righteousness will be blessed (Matt. 5:1-12). Riotous living brings ruin (Luke 15:11-16). Make doing God's will the point of your life.

**2. The nail has a head.** The head is opposite the point. It prevents the nail from going too far and holds the board in place. Spiritually speaking, "The Head of every man is Christ" (1 Cor. 11:3; cf. Eph. 1:22-23). He holds all "in Him" together in "one body" (Eph. 2:14-16; 4:4). Are you in Him (See Rom. 6:3-4)?

**3. The nail must be driven to do its job.** Christians are to be "driven" (motivated), by faith, love, and gratitude. You might also say the nail takes a "pounding" to be put in its place! Sometimes the chastening of God is required to get us in the right position. When reading the book of Hebrews don't stop after chapter 11 ("faith chapter"). Read the "chastening" chapter (12). His chastening supplies motivation, makeover, and momentum.

**4. The nail can be bent.** When the wood is hard or the metal of the nail soft, the nail is easily bent. Older carpenters would drive that nail more slowly. They would sometimes turn it upside down and tap it gently to dull the point. This world seeks to conform us to its image (Rom. 12:1-2). Sin bends, twists, and distorts one into its likeness. Hence, be ever watchful (2 Tim. 4:5).

**5. The nail can be straightened.** Many a crooked nail has been straightened by a farmer or carpenter who did not have the time or money to make a trip to town to purchase more nails. The straightened ones were up to the task! Are lives crooked by sin sometimes cast aside when they could be salvaged and proven useful? Saul of Tarsus and Simon the sorcerer are inspiring examples from Scripture (Acts 8, 9).

Nails are not unknown to the Lord. Though men may debate and even deny whether Jesus was "nailed to the cross", it is clear that He was (See John 20:24-29). However, His commitment to the will of the Father and His love for the lost kept Him there.

**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 was up Sunday for which we give thanks to our heavenly Father. It was wonderful to see several who have been ill back with us. Prayers were answered! Of course, there seems to always be some of us dealing with the regular seasonal allergies with accompanying symptoms. I trust all will be better soon.

The current issue to The Spiritual Sword arrived last week and is now available in the foyer and on the table at the west entrance of the annex. This edition deals with "Understanding the Restoration Plea", a most important theme. Please read it in its entirety and retain for future referencing and study. New House to House/Heart to Heart copies are also available. Read and pass them on to a friend or neighbor.

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).

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief has been preparing food boxes for storm victims of the recent Mississippi tornados. They continued preparation of more boxes yesterday (Tuesday) and will prepare more tomorrow (4/06). Thanks to Barry Cook, R. W. Vincent, and Ken Hensley for their assistance with this good work. We receive messages about work days and will be announcing them. Your help will be a blessing to others. Lunch is usually provided, and the fellowship is uplifting.

Our annual Fish Fry is approaching. The date is April 15 with eating to begin at 4:00 PM after carry-out plates are prepared and delivered for shut-ins. This is a good opportunity to invite friends to come and enjoy a meal and the fellowship. Fish, chicken, hushpuppies, and French fries will be provided. Bring a favorite side dish, desserts, and tea.

Barbara and I will host an egg hunt for the children this Saturday, April 8 at 2:30. If you wish to bring some plastic eggs it would be helpful. You might also bring a lawn chair.

May the Lord bless and keep you through the remainder of the week. 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.!

*Edward L Anderson*

**NEWS & NOTES:**

**SICK:** Little Emery Dodson is now at home! Continue to pray for her and Morgan and Conner. It was good to have Carolyn Harris, Faye Maberry, Lola King, Helen Davis, Sally Russell, Ruby Fisher, Barbara Jenkins, and Steve Harper able to be with us Sunday. Lola is to have other tests to determine treatment options. Please pray for her. Her husband Bobby is improved. Frances Stewart is at home after hospitalization at Summit. She was to see her cardiologist on Monday. Andy Rutherford has been back with us after some complications. Barry Cohoon is out of a cast, off his crutch, and back to normal. Remember Janice Hicks in prayer as she deals with cancer. 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. 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).

**THANK YOU:** The church has received and read notes of thanks from the following: Kaylan Linder and family; and Frances Stewart.

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is extended to the family of Gene and Marsha Sykes in Gene's passing this past Saturday. The funeral was Tuesday at the Bass Chapel in Gordonsville. He was a member at Brush Creek.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice; and weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15).

**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:** *Gospel Meetings:* Sycamore church of Christ, April 16-19, with John Deberry, 6:30 PM.; Celina church of Christ, April 16-19; with Tim Roland preaching, 7:00 PM; *Ladies Day:* East Main church of Christ (Murfreesboro), April 15, with Traci Sproule.

**ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS' MEETING:** The next monthly meeting will be in the annex Wednesday, April 12 following service. Copies of agenda will be available April 9.

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**DISCOUNT CHRISTIANITY**

I don't know anyone who doesn't like getting a discount. During the holiday season there are sales galore, offering different percentages off on the price of just about any merchandise you can imagine. The Black Friday sales create a buyer frenzy at many stores and the "after holiday" discounts are the best, sometimes offering as much as 50% of the retail price! Senior citizens enjoy their discounts at restaurants and at the grocery store on Tuesdays. Yes, everyone loves getting a discount.

Unfortunately, we sometimes treat our Christianity as a retailer would a discounted consumer product or service. It's as if we're trying to get our service to the Lord "off the shelf" as quickly as possible, giving Him a "discounted" amount of our time and effort. Let's give the following some thought:

- \* Do I miss 10%-20% of worship services?
- \* Do I only bring my children to Sunday school 60% of the time?
- \* Do I give 10% of my income when I could give more?
- \* Do I only read the Bible 15% of the time?
- \* Do I offer only 30% of my talents to work in the church?
- \* Do I only check on the sick 5% of the time?
- \* Do I sing with 25% of the spirit and understanding?
- \* Do I listen to 10% of the Bible lesson presented?
- \* Do I pray only believing 50% will be heard by God?

When Jesus called His disciples, they abandoned ALL they had and followed Him (Matt. 4:20-22). Paul gladly suffered the loss of ALL THINGS (Phil. 3:8). These men sacrificed everything to serve the Lord and we should be willing to do the same, avoiding the offer of discount Christianity. (Jay Launius, Maude (TX) church of Christ, 2022)