

A DIRECT INFLUENCE

If from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, and one can be known by the quality of the fruits produced, then it is reasonable to conclude that both the words spoken and the deeds done are indicative of the person's heart.

People are able to see this and judge. People of maturity can understand this, but people full of sin (of self) are quick to point out that one, especially one guilty of sinful behavior. It is interesting that these are the same people who look upon the Lord and faithfully proclaim they would NEVER deny Him, but their lives have denial written all over them.

The deeds we do, the words we speak, and the thoughts we think reflect correctly on (or against) the Lord's influence on our lives.

(Ron Thomas, via Bulletin Digest)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

May 31, 2023

Number 11

CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

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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. & 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.

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.
(615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

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

"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

THE VALUE OF BIBLE STUDY

Various reports reveal that there is general neglect among Americans when it comes to reading the Bible. The 2019 census placed the population of American at 330,150,668. A 2021 report estimated that 128 million American adults read the Bible with regularity. Just over one-third (34%), read the Bible once a week or more, while half (50%), read the Bible less than twice a year, including "never" (Barna Group). Of the same year (2021), LifeWay Research reported only 11% of Americans read the Bible daily.

Among other things reported is that churchgoers aged 50-64 are more likely to say they read the Bible every day. One in five Americans say they have read through the Bible at least once, however, 29% say they never read it. Many if not most Americans own Bibles, but readership is not as prevalent as it once was. Here are three good reasons to read and study the inspired Scriptures.

(1) **It will keep the devil at bay.** The devil is identified as our "adversary" and likened to "a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). An "adversary" is defined as an opponent in a conflict. A critical part of the Christian's armor is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17). Jesus, our Example, when tempted by the devil, answered each of the three temptations with "It is written... It is written... It is written..." (See Matt. 4:1-11).

(2) **It will drive the darkness away.** The psalmist's lovely lines come to mind: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). Spiritual darkness results from lack of understanding and motivation. God's word supplies both: "Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore, I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:104). God's "commandments", "old" and "new", will lead us from "darkness" to "light" and prevent our "stumbling" (See 1 John 2:3-11).

(3) **It will encourage the Christian to "stay" - as in, "Stay the course".** Paul declared, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness. Which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Jesus said, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Mark 8:34).

If you wish to keep the devil at bay, drive the darkness away, and with Jesus stay, be sure to read the Bible every day!

Edward L Anderson

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 up the past two Sundays in spite of illness and some being away. June will be here by the time many read this bulletin! Summer is near and that means vacation time for many. We pray for safe travel for you and your family. We urge all to remember the necessity and value of faithfully worshipping God whether at home or away.

We enjoyed a wonderful period of fellowship and food following Bible classes Sunday morning. The time we have together is to be cherished because we know not how soon it may end. I must brag a bit on our ladies (maybe some men, too), for their culinary expertise and serving skills. You always prepare and serve above and beyond! Thanks for your dedication.

Prior to the meal we recognized our six high school Seniors: Jenna Harville, Molly Jones, Luke Linder, Sophie Linder, JoElla Morris, and Jake White. Each was presented with a study Bible. Tables were decorated for each one along with their families. We congratulate you again and pray for success and good health in your future endeavors. May God bless all!

Vacation Bible School is just about to begin! (See opposite column.) Parents, bring your children and stay for the adult class designed for you. Different speakers will address important principles for those who are older while the children study wonderful lessons suited to their age groups. This is an opportune time for the entire family to be blessed! Don't miss it!

Jackson-Smith County Youth Camp is rapidly approaching – only six weeks away! **July 16-21** is the date. The place is Taylor Christian Camp near Holland, KY, not far from Scottsville. Counselor applications are being returned and camper applications were made available this past Sunday. We have already received a few. Staff applications should be returned by **Wednesday, June 7** and the camper application deadline is **Wednesday, June 21**.

Mark Teske was with us last Wednesday to report on the "Good News Today" television broadcast. It may be viewed Sunday mornings at 8:00 A.M. on Channel 30. Thanks, Mark!

I trust He will 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: Brenda Bowman has been able to be with us for some services. Julie Wright is back with us. Sherry Gibbs Lawrence is now at home but still needs prayers. Janice Hicks' recent heart procedure went well, and she is back with us. Our prayers have been requested for Stephen Johnson, son of Scott and Jenilee. Oliver Woodard, grandson of Carol, is recuperating from adenoid removal and ear tube placement. Lola King was able to be with us Sunday but had been feeling for two weeks prior. Keep Lola and Bobby in your prayers. Frances Stewart is still recuperating at home. Josephine Fitts, mother of Carol Woodard, has been transferred to NHC in McMinnville. Prayers are requested for Gene Vaughn (now in VA-Murfreesboro); Garmon Vincent; Brenda Copeland; Chuck Jordan (cancer treatments); Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sonya Swallows (cancer); Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife); Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Janice Wilson ; Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); 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).

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.; *Vacation Bible School:* June 5-9, 6:30 PM, Theme: "There's No Place Like Home"; *Nashville Sounds Game:* Saturday, June 17; *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023; *Bible Bowl 2023:* Tentative date, Saturday, September 9; *Retreat:* At TCC, October 5-8; *TCC Fundraiser:* November 4, 6:00 PM in annex; *Gospel Meeting:* November 5-8, with Dan Gulley preaching.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (1 Thess. 5:21)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

June 5-9, 2023

Time: 6:30 P.M

Theme:

"There's No Place Like Home!"

**Bible Classes for all ages: Nursery – Adults
Monday – Thursday**

Adult Bible Class Speakers:

Monday: Jon Ledbetter (Wisdom/Knowledge)

Tuesday: Matthew Scoggins (Heart/Love)

Wednesday: Edward Anderson (Courage)

Thursday: Alan Judd (Heaven)

**Friday: Awards Night & "Something Special"
Singing, puppet show, refreshments, and more!**

Bring your family and increase your Bible knowledge while making new friends!

Everyone Welcome!