

THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

The psalmist prayed, "You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word" (Psalm 119:65).

At first, taking the verse alone, we might think he was thankful that God had blessed him with an easy life—but not so. In verse 71 he wrote, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes."

It seems the psalmist had apparently gone through what has been called "the school of hard knocks." While we seek to avoid the pains in life, we need to learn that if our heart seeks the Lord, we can learn from our painful experiences. When troubles come, we have the choice of facing them with bitterness or with assurance that, "we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). In the "school of hard knocks," we must learn to seek comfort in God's word, submitting our lives to His will.

Are there afflictions and difficulties in your life that sometimes seem insurmountable? If so, have you learned to turn them over to the Lord? By faith, find comfort and strength in God's word: "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7). Do you seek strength in prayer and God's word? Have you let the Lord be your Teacher in the "school of hard knocks?"

(Ron Bartanen, Arthur Church of Christ, Author, IL., via Bulletin Gold Sept. 2017)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 27

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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

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(615-735-1240)
Jerry Phillips
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Dusty Whitaker
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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.

Evangelist:

Edward L Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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

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)

"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

"RIGHTEOUSNESS"

The word appears more than three hundred times in the Bible. It refers to rightness and justice. W. E. Vine comments that righteousness "is the character or quality of being right or just; it was formerly spelled 'rightwiseness', which clearly expresses the meaning" (p. 298).

Jesus used the word to identify whatever is right and just in itself and whatever conforms to the revealed will of God (Matt. 5:6, 10, 20). He used it to identify whatever is appointed by God to be acknowledged and obeyed by mankind (Matt. 3:15; 21:32); religious duties (Matt. 6:1); and the total of all the requirements of God (Matt. 6:33).

Things are best understood when contrasted with their opposites. For example, we better appreciate "clean", when we observe something "dirty". Righteousness is pictured in sharp contrast to wickedness throughout Scripture. Paul asked, "What fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness?" (2 Cor. 6:14). The two are diametric opposites!

Noah and the people prior to the flood provide a powerful example. God saw and was sickened by the wickedness, evil, and corruption (Gen. 6:5). So great was the wickedness that God was sorry He had made man (Gen. 6:6)! But God also took note of Noah, "a just man" who "walked with God" (Gen. 6:8-9). Noah was a "light" in a world of "darkness"! (See Matt. 5:14-16).

God is a righteous God (Ex. 9:27; John 17:25; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 16:7). As such He is deeply offended by evil. God is much more capable than are we when it comes to discerning between good and evil. What seems right to man often leads to destruction (Prov. 14:12).

Bible examples abound which illustrate the decided differences between righteousness and unrighteousness. God's standard was firm and fixed first in Eden (Gen. 3-4). Following the flood we see it on display in the "twin cities" of Sodom and Gomorrah; in Pharaoh's Egypt; in beautiful and bountiful Israel; in Assyria's capital of Nineveh; in ancient Babylon; and elsewhere. In the New Testament, Acts in particular, the distinction is continued through the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, Samaria, Corinth, Athens, Ephesus, and Rome.

Right and wrong are not fluid, flexible concepts continually reshaped and redefined by fads and fashions of the day. They are permanent, principled, and proven because they are based upon and rooted in the divine and eternal truth of God, who is the same "yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Edward L Anderson

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

"CAMP OUT!"

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

LOCATION:

(711 North Main – Phone: (615) 735-0114

June 7-11; 6:30 P.M.

Classes for all ages – Birth to Adult

**(Bible lessons, singing, crafts, puppets, awards,
and snacks!)**

Adult Class Speakers:

Monday: Sam Wilcutt – “Finding Shelter in the Tent”,
Refuge in the Family of God – Isaiah 25:4

Tuesday: Dan Gulley – “Preparing Your Sleeping Bag”,
Giving up Comforts to Follow Jesus – Matthew 8:18-22

Wednesday: Larry Cole – “Telling Campfire Stories”,
Spreading the Good News – Matthew 28:18-20

Thursday: Edward L Anderson – “Keep the Fire
Burning”, Staying Faithful to God - Revelation 2:10

*“Search the Scriptures, for...they are they which testify of me”
(John 5:39)*

The Bereans “searched the Scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11).

*“Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway”
(Psalm 119-105).*

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

WELCOME VISITORS: A warm welcome is extended to all our visitors. We are honored to have you and your family. Come again!

RESPONSES: Peggy Faustina requested prayers for “strength and forgiveness” Sunday evening, May 23. Continue to pray for her.

SICK: Joe Hensley is very ill at home and is being lovingly cared for by Ken, Charlie, and family. Billy Smith, Dimple Hicks’ brother, suffered a broken shoulder Saturday. Katie Woodard, Carol’s daughter-in-law, escaped serious injuries in an auto accident last week. Corbin (Butch) Kirby, young son of Josh and Samantha, sustained head injuries in an ATV accident and is at home after a stay in Vanderbilt. Jake White is recuperating from a broken fibula. Gary Clemmons, Wanda’s husband, is now at home. Darlene Hackett is awaiting knee surgery (June). Hattie Branham is still not as well. Calvin Duggin continues to recuperate from burn wounds (No skin-grafts required!). Eric Haynie has been ill but is improving. It is so good to have Faye Maberry, Ruby Fisher, Carolyn Harris, and Sally Russell back with us! Mary Phillips is seeing a wound doctor twice weekly. Continue to pray for Jerry and Mary. Lola King had a treatment this past Friday. She was with us Sunday. Patricia Brooks had tests last week. Janice Hicks is now at home and was with us Sunday. W. A. Gibbs continues dialysis. Peggy Denton’s planned procedure has been put on hold. Prayers have been requested for Mark and Sandra (Sam) McCall who have been ill. Both are improved. Contact the office at 615-735-0114 with updates/news).

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham; Jan Anderson (SCHR); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Hattie Branham, Joe Hensley, and Pat Paysinger (Shut-ins).

VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM: Josh Brown has a list of newcomers and shut-ins. If you wish to help with new assignments with welcomes and calls, please contact him. Let’s make our calls!

JSCYC:

ARK ENCOUNTER: The date is June 25-26. Please sign up on the posted sheet ASAP, so final plans and reservations can be made.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Cory King, son of Eric King and grandson of Bobby and Lola, on his recent graduation for the Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD). He is now a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

THANK YOU: To all who prepared food, set up the annex, served, did clean-up, and to all who stayed and enjoyed the wonderful fellowship this past Sunday. Thanks to Justin Mauldin and Matthew Jones for preaching this past Sunday.

PRAYER LIST: Teresa Hampton; Joyce Kilgore; Beverly Hix; James Spivey; Oaken Maberry; Mrs. Willie Sevier; Joyce Burford; Ron Gibson; Steven Linville; Pete Williams; Donald Eskew; Mark Scudder; Zander Dixon; Andy Futrell; Patricia Nye; Buddy Hyatt; J.B. Dailey; Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Faye Massey; Joe Hensley; Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; A. J. Purkey; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Alan Fitts; Dan Winkler; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Shirley Henry; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Wendy Williams; Ruby Anderson; Roslyn Fox Stout; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn; Emily Allen; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Ken Miller; Tom Brown; Alicia Haynes; Joey Black; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Pattie Birdwell; Mary Ellen Lawrence; Donna Kemp; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby.

IN THE MILITARY: 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).

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November; *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted); *Vacation Bible School:* June 7-11; *Ark Encounter:* June 25-26. *Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp:* July 18-23.

AREA EVENTS: *Gospel Meetings:* Buffalo Valley church of Christ, June 6-9, with Chad Ramsey preaching, 7:00 P.M.; Montrose church of Christ, June 20-24, with Cliff Goodwin preaching, 7:00 P.M.; *VBS:* Crossville church of Christ, June 14-18, 6:00 P.M.; Montrose church of Christ, July 11-15, 6:30 P.M. *Men’s Seminar:* East Main (Murfreesboro), August 14, with B. J. Clarke, Jim Dearman, and Alan Highers; *Area-Wide Acapella Singing:* Dogwood Park Amphitheater (Cookeville), June 5 @ 6:00 P.M. Bring a lawn chair.

JSCYC: Camper applications are available and need to be returned as soon as possible. The deadline is Wednesday, June 23. Counselor applications are still being received though the deadline was Sunday, May 30. You may mail applications to P O Box 88, Carthage 37030.

VBS NEEDS: Camping gear – sleeping bags, tents, lanterns, green artificial trees, and anything else used in camping – to be used as visuals in the classrooms. Please place in room on right near stairs.