

The Judgment Seat of Christ: Looking for Loopholes

One of the most popular entertainers of the Vaudeville era was W.C. Fields (1880-1946). While Fields could make audiences roar with laughter, he was certainly not a Christian and made no pretense of his disdain for the Bible. Thus, it came as a great shock when one of Fields' friends, visiting him in the hospital near the end of his life found him reading the Bible one day. When asked what he was doing, Fields, ever the comedian, replied, "Just looking for loopholes."

Friends, one day we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:10, we read, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." On that great day, we will be judged by the word of God. Jesus said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day: (John 12:48).

God's law, unlike man's, has no loopholes. No lawyer will be able to fool the Judge of all men or be able to negotiate a plea bargain. Hebrews 9:27 reminds us "...it is appointed to men to die once, but after this the judgment..." If the Judgment Day were today, where would you spend eternity, in heaven or hell?

(Travis L. Quertermous, Dexter. MO Church of Christ, via Bulletin Digest June 2008)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26 July 27, 2022 Number 15

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Carthage, TN 37030
Permit No. 12

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)

711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
(615-735-0114)

Deacons:

Josh Brown
(931-319-9994)
Tony Hackett
(615-735-9037)
Steve Harper
(615-735-2651)
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)

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

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)

"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

WHY SOME ARE NOT SAVED

It grieves God that myriads of people are lost. He paid the ultimate price for our sins that all might be saved (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-9; 2 Peter 3:9). What are some reasons why multitudes remain in their sins and will be eternally lost (Matt. 7:13-14)?

Some have allowed the devil to snatch the word out of their hearts (See Matt. 13:19; Luke 8:12). He cunningly deceives them with his "thou shall not's" as he did Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:4-5). He is called "the great dragon", "that old serpent", "the devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world" for good reason (Rev. 12:9).

Some, not loving truth, even to the point of despising it, have been deceived. Paul graphically describes such a process along with its results (2 Thess. 2:3-15). They exchange the truth for the "pleasure in unrighteousness" (v. 12).

Some simply love sin (John 3:19). Our current culture reflects the words of the Lord, for we surely live in a time wherein people are thrilled by the "darkness" of sin rather than the "light" of truth! A large segment of the populace revel in unrighteousness.

Some diligently seek the praise of men more than the praise of God (John 12:42-43). Many crave the praise of their peers. It has long been and continues to be the goal of a large segment of humanity. Trading God's approval for the praise of man is not a smart decision (2 Tim. 2:15; Matt. 16:24-26).

Some follow men's religion instead of Jesus (Matt. 10:37-38). It may be their parents' religion as seen in the above text. It may be the religion of their favorite theologian or philosopher. Whoever it may be, there is no substitute for the Christ. In Him alone is salvation found and all spiritual blessings enjoyed (Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:3).

Some mistakenly trust in their personal morality to save them (See Rom. 1:16; Eph. 5:23). The centurion Cornelius was of impeccable character and morality and yet it was necessary for him to hear, believe, and obey the gospel to be saved (See Acts 10:1-4, 22, 33, 43, 47; 11:14).

Some just neglect salvation (Hebrews 2:3). Though of vital importance, it is allowed to slide to the "back burner", if not completely off the stove! Lots of folks talk about their "bucket list", but when it comes to things spiritual their bucket has no bottom! Sadly, this phenomenon is not just true of "worldlings", but also of many "church members". The writer of Hebrews was, after all, writing to Christians!

Let us ever be on guard and never neglect the "great salvation" on realized and received in Christ! **Edward L. Anderson**

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

VISITORS! A warm welcome is extended to you. We are delighted you came our way. If you are traveling, may your travels be safe and may God cause His face to shine upon you (Num. 6:24-26). If you recently moved to this area, we hope you will be with us regularly. "Come now and let us reason together" (Isa. 1:18).

Last week's Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp was a great success. Eight precious souls were added to the Lord with six campers and two adults being baptized into Christ! Campers came from all over the Upper Cumberland region and from as far away as Winchester. Under this year's theme of "CRITICAL", we studied four lessons dealing with "CRITICAL Authority", "CRITICAL Faith", "CRITICAL Identity", and "CRITICAL Equality". Thanks to Alan and Amy Judd for preparing the material. An excellent staff served in so many ways - counsellors, Bible teachers, cooks, medical personnel, crafters, recreation supervisors, and co-directors. These folks selflessly donate their time and volunteer their services for the week. A big THANK YOU is extended to all who support this work by regular contributions, memorial donations in lieu of flowers, and in other ways. To our seventeen staff members and all of our campers and pre-campers, I humbly thank you for your labor of love. NOTE: Jonah Mauldin was selected by camp counselors as Boy Pre-camper of the week. Haven Brown won the pine-wood derby trophy in crafts. We are proud of ALL our campers!

We were happy to have Jerry and Paula Bates with us Sunday evening to give a mission report on their work in India, Africa, and the Philippines. The printing, preaching, and teaching ministry has resulted in numerous conversions and much good. Jerry is leaving for an African trip. Pray for him in his travels, that good work in general, and for Jerry and Paula's continued health and safety.

Our Summer Series, which began June 15, continues in a fine fashion. We are grateful to all the brethren who have volunteered to teach. We are using the SEIBS lectureship book as a study guide. It features numerous lessons on very important issues we are facing in the present culture. Valuable lessons are being learned. Let me urge you to read all the lectures. I would highly recommend use of the book in family devotionals. Please attend the mid-week services, and by all means, **bring your Bible!** Searching the Scriptures is vital to knowing truth, faithfully serving God, and being blessed by Him (John 5:39; Acts 17:11; James 1:25).

Remember our Fifth Sunday Schedule (meal following AM services, shower for baby girl White, 12:30 PM service, devo at Pavilion at 2:00), for this Sunday. Let us resolve to always be faithful to God. Hope to see you Sunday!
Edward L. Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

RESPONSES: Jessica Kirby was baptized by Stan Stevenson, July 19. Molly Jones requested prayers at camp for forgiveness and strength to better serve the Lord.

SICK: Sharon Halliburton, Tony Hackett's sister, is not as well and needs our prayers. Carolyn Harris is currently doing rehab at home. Helen Davis is unable to be with us due to knee issues. Janice Anderson is now at Quality Rehab in Lebanon. Elaine Wright was unable to be with us Sunday evening. Michelle Allen is back with us. Josh Dillard is having treatments to improve lung function. Bob Fisher, Ruby's son, is continuing treatments for cancer. Prayers are also requested for Colton Ferrell (in ICU), a student of Lelani Faustina. Brenda Copeland, sister of Cheryl Hicks, is recovering from colon surgery. Prayers are requested for Derek Bush, recently injured in a MVA. Denise Griffin, member at Gordonsville, is now in rehab. Barbara Jenkins was back with us Sunday. Gordon Jenkins is doing well after his second cataract surgery. Lola King is able to be with us. Prayers are requested for Michael and Janice Hicks and grandson, Cody. Remember Jerry and Mary Phillips in prayer. Prayers are requested for Faye Maberry; Jean White; Brenda Hooper; Mark Goad (Bagdad); Ciera Haffner; Janice Wilson (stroke); Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Joy Conner; Barry and Teresa Harville; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall; Brenda Forrest; Bea Davis.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Wilma Richardson; Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains, Robbie North, Barbara Billington (Pavilion); Mary Searle, Knoxville nursing home; 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).

AUGUST BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Alexis White (3); Cheryl Hicks (4); Hannah Rutherford, Gail Vincent (10); Larry Silcox (13); Charlotte Henry (20); Harper Whitaker (21); Misty Smith (22); Lelani Faustina (24); Sarah Mauldin, Laura Piper, Gordon Jenkins, (27); Barry Cohoon (30); Pat Paysinger (31). Chris & Amanda Hicks (8/5/06); Jim & Kathaleen Replogle (8/6/1977); Rick & Melinda Spivey (8/30).

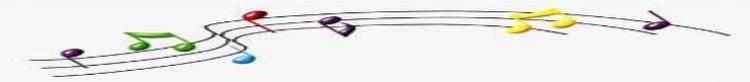
IT'S A GIRL! There will be a baby shower for Elizabeth Ann White (Expectant parents are Alexis and Allen), Sunday, July 31. All our ladies are invited. Alexis is registered at Amazon and Walmart.

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:* July 31, 2:00 PM; *5th Sunday Schedule-July 31:* Fellowship meal, following the morning services, followed by the second service at 12:30 PM.; *Trip to Sounds' Game:* July 30; *Annual Friday Night Singing:* August 5; *Run4Don:* September 17 (Register ASAP); *Gospel Meeting:* Gary Hampton preaching, September 18-21.

AREA EVENTS: **Men's Seminar:** East Main church of Christ (Murfreesboro), August 13, 8:30-1:00 P.M. with B. J. Clarke, Jim Dearman, and Alan Highers; **Girls' Day:** East Main church of Christ, September 10, with Travena Rogan, 8:30 Registration; Lunch will be served.

COMMUNION PICKUP: Anyone wishing to volunteer for communion supply pickup in 2023, please contact Elaine.

COIN CANS FOR POTTER'S: If you have filled coin cans for Potter's Children Home, please bring them to building ASAP.



**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
OUR FRIDAY NIGHT SINGING**

August 5, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Moderator: Jerry Hicks

Food will be served in the annex at 5:30 P.M.

**711 N. Main Street
Carthage, TN 37030
615-735-0114**

(Call for more information.)

