

SOMETHING TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER

We should never use our weakness as an excuse to commit sin, but rather use our weakness as a reason to rely more on God.”

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

August 23, 2023

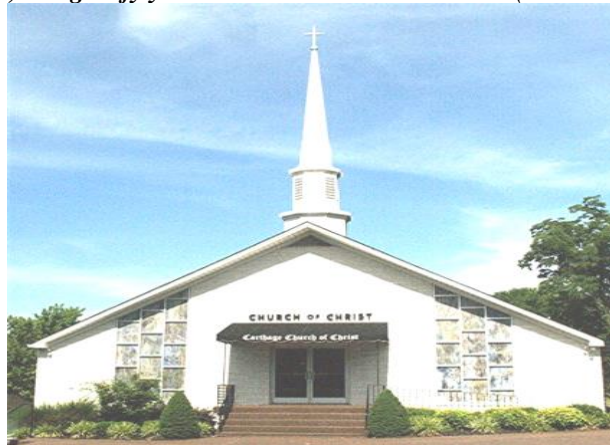
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“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”(Matthew 5:16)



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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:

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Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
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For Transportation to Services
615-735-0114 or 615-418-6637

“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

UNBELIEF

Edward L Anderson

Sweden and North Korea are reported to more atheists than any other countries. Sociologist Phil Zuckerman estimates that those who have an absence of belief in a deity range from 500-750 million people worldwide. The U.S. has its share, too, and the number seems to be growing.

Those who profess faith in God, but are not faithful in service to Him, need to cry out as did the father of the possessed son, “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief” (Mark 9:23-24). Only a “full” (complete) faith will remove unbelief. Perhaps, it would be helpful to be reminded of what unbelief does.

Unbelief robs us of God’s great blessings. When Jesus came into “His own country” the people were astonished, questioned the source of His wisdom and mighty works, and were offended by Him (Matt. 14:54-57). Matthew records that “He did not do many mighty works there **because of their unbelief**” (v. 58). Perhaps only eternity will reveal what they missed because of their unbelief! Will it be true of us as well?

Unbelief can, and often does, lead us to do very bad things in ignorance. Saul of Tarsus was such a man by his own admission. In describing his previous actions as “a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent (violently arrogant) man”, he reveals he “did it ignorantly in **unbelief**” (1 Tim.1:12-14). The “beast” of unbelief was tamed by the grace, faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. The glorious gospel can change a person inside out!

The path of unbelief leads one farther and farther away from God: “Beware brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God” (Heb. 3:12). The farther we go the farther it is back. Hence, the writer follows this warning with an admonition: “Exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today’, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (v. 13).

Unbelief closes doors. When describing the “Wilderness Wanderers” in the above context of Hebrews 3, their fate is revealed in the following statement: “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief” (Heb. 3:19). How many doors of opportunity for good have been closed because someone said, “It can’t be done.? Or, perhaps, “It wouldn’t do any good”? The failure to really believe what God has clearly said in His word will, no doubt, be the leading cause of condemnation.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:6).

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).

We were blessed to have a couple of families visiting with us Sunday morning. Make it a point to greet our guests, as so many of you already do. We had some families away to attend PTP (Polishing the Pulpit), in Sevierville. Barbara and I will be there when you are reading this, our Lord willing. The program features many speakers discussing a wide range of topics covering all phases of the Lord's work. There are sessions/classes for men, women, and children and for elders, deacons, preachers, and teachers.

The Berean Jews of Acts 17 are given a mighty fine compliment. It stands in sharp contrast to the envious and devious ones in Thessalonica, who by their evil actions and threats caused the brethren to hastily send Paul and Silas to Berea. Doctor Luke describes them as "more noble than those in Thessalonica" (v. 11). What made them such? He continues, "In that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." The result of their actions is given in the following verse: "Therefore many of them believed..." Their example reminds us of the value of being a "Daily Bible Searcher/Reader". Do you read your Bible every day?

Remember to encourage our youth who are participating in Bible Bowl preparation for the September 9 event at TTU's Hooper-Eblen Center in Cookeville. Participants this year are Maizy Rutherford; Haven Brown; Jonah Mauldin; Aubrey Hicks; Scarlett Hicks; Noah Brown; Makenna Hassler; Ainsley Hassler; Josie Beth Morris; Willow Lawrence; and Oakley Lawrence. We are proud of you!! Thanks to all the teachers/coaches, those who have prepared food, and those who have assisted in other ways.

The Wednesday Summer Series in the adult class is winding down, with only two lessons remaining. The 2023 SEIBS' lectureship book: "United: Becoming One in Christ", has served as our study material. Thanks to Andy Rutherford; Barry Cohoon; Steve Bray; Justin Mauldin; Dusty Whitaker; Barry Cook; Josh Brown; Eric Swann; Michael Hackett; Richard Bowman (tonight); and R. W. Vincent (next week). Thanks to all!

Both the Scriptures and hymns we sing remind us of the brevity and swiftness of life. Time may well be our most precious commodity. Are we redeeming it? (Eph. 5:16) Hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00! *Edward L Anderson*

NEWS & NOTES:

RESPONSE: Linda Myers requested prayers for forgiveness on Monday and prayer was offered on her behalf at that time. Please remember her in prayer as she is very ill.

SICK: Barry Cohoon has been in Vanderbilt due to a subdural hematoma and was expected to be released this past Monday. Gerald Piper is now at home. Jammye Forrest, Wanda Fishers's brother underwent extensive shoulder surgery August 17. Peggy and Lelani Faustina, Conner and Morgan Dodson and little Emery are back with us after having covid. Scott Apple, Denise Hackett's brother, suffered a recent heart attack (two stents), but is home and doing well. Dennis Hackett requests prayers for friend/co-worker, Ronnie Glover (heart issues). Michelle Allen had a recent MRI. Barbara Jenkins is now at home after a stay in RRMCC but is still not feeling well. Helen Davis is in rehab after suffering a break in her left leg. Sally Russell is at home and was with us Sunday. Faye Maberry has not been feeling well for several days. Lola King was with us Sunday. Remember Bobby, Lola's husband, in prayer, too. Continue to pray for Mary Ann Herd, Jo and Tony Hackett's sister-in-law. Prayers are requested for Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson. Little Josie Powell will have more scans/tests in September. Prayers are requested for: Brenda Boyd; Linda Myers; Edward St. John (hospice care); Mikel and Janice Hicks; Sherry Gibbs Lawrence; Cynthia Gibbs; Mike Shoulders (cancer); Josephine Fitts; Gene Vaughn (VA-Murfreesboro); Buckie Parsons; Garmon Vincent; Darrell Vincent; Brenda Copeland; Chuck Jordan; Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sonya Swallows; Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Janice Wilson; Brenda Brawner; 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: 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's grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:16-17).

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Dusty Whitaker; Jasmine King (5); Teddy Spivey, David Maberry (6), Lola King (8), Susan Law; Amanda Cowan (9), Mia Whitaker (10), Jessica Grim (11); Caroline Dillard; Alex Richmond, Janice Hicks (13); Taylor Swann, (19); Jessa Klamm (26); Julie Wright, Aubrey Hicks (27); James Rowland (28). Conner & Morgan Dodson (9/08/2018); JEdward & Emma Trainham (9/11/2021).

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to the following families: Sue Markham, a former member passed away August 14 after being injured in a fall, undergoing surgery, and suffering a stroke. The funeral was Saturday, August 19 at Ligon-Bobo in Lebanon.

THANK YOU: The church received and read recent "Thank You" notes from the following: Latasha Davis for our prayers for her and her infant son Mateo; Sally Russell for the cards, calls, and prayers during her recent hospitalization.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November – November 5; *Pavilion Devotional:* Fifth Sundays at 2:00 P.M.; *Bible Bowl 2023:* Saturday, September 9; *Run4Don:* The annual 5K or 15K run/walk will be September 16. Register before September 1; *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:* .; *Girls' Day:* East Main (Murfreesboro), September 9, with Brooke Miller and Bethany Nichols; *Ladies' Days:* Crossville church of Christ, September 30, with Kathy Pollard, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon.

THINK ABOUT THESE:

“Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future.”

“Never fear the shadows, they simply mean there's a light shining nearby.”

“Be that person that makes others feel special.”

“Pray daily. God is easier to talk to than most people.”

“Feeling worthless. Jesus thought you were worth leaving heaven for.”

“Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.”

“When it rains, look for rainbows. When it is dark, look for stars.”