

The Christian Tree

If a Christian were a tree, what should it look like?

- It would have roots that grow downward. Roots help with strength and stability. Roots also bring nutrients to the tree. Deeply rooted in the Scriptures the Christian can stand strong.
- It would be healthy inward. A tree must be healthy from the inside out. Spiritual health for the Christian begins with the heart.
- It would stretch up ever upward. A tree is always growing, stretching its leafy branches toward the sky. The Christian must ever be growing toward and pointing to heaven.
- It would produce fruit outward. A fruit tree yields much product. The Christian is to be productive in good works and fruit of the Spirit.

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is in the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.” (Jer. 17:7-8)

(Ed Sterchi preaches for the Broadway Church of Christ in Campbellsville, KY)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
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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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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

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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”

I HAVE SINNED

Three of the hardest words for any man is to say the words, “I have sinned.” Out of the hundreds of characters whose lives are recorded in Scripture, there are only eleven whom these words are attributed.

For some reason, man has always been reluctant to confess his mistakes, but if an individual hopes to be acceptable to God, he must learn to admit that he has sinned. 1 John 1:8,9 says,

If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive our sins...

In our permissive world, sin is practically an obsolete word. People are “sick,” “misguided,” or “socially maladjusted,” but they are not sinners. The Bible declares that sin is a reality, and that the sinner is unacceptable in God’s sight. We must realize this before we will confess our sins.

Not only must man acknowledge that sin is real, he must also realize that sin is a personal thing. The Scripture teaches that “all have sinned” (Romans 3:23), but many times we readily confess the sins of others, while failing to admit our own faults.

Only when man realizes what sin has done to him, will he “come to himself,” as did the prodigal in Luke 15:17. This sinful young an finally realized that he was in the hog pen, and he was there because of his sin. When we realize that sin places us in the hop pen of life, we will be more eager to confess our sins and obey the Lord’s commands for forgiveness. (Ron Stough, Voice of Truth International, Vol. 1)

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.”

“And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.” – Luke 15:20-21

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

THE GOSPEL BIRD

Roosters crowing, hens clucking, and chicks peeping were familiar sounds growing up on the farm. On a recent trip back to the family farm I was greeted by the unmistakable sound of a rooster crowing. I was glad my great-nephew and his family had brought back the chickens, along with some pigs. It brought back good memories of days gone by and also reminded me of Biblical events.

A chicken are sometimes called "The Gospel Bird". This is because gospel preachers of yesteryear were fed so much chicken during gospel meetings and "dinners on the grounds". An old story about a preacher going home with a family for Sunday dinner is still amusing and brings a chuckle. It seems that a particular preacher ate several pieces of the fried fowl from the provided platter. While sitting on the porch after the meal as folks often did during that time, the family's rooster strutted around the yard crowing very loudly. The preacher remarked, "Well, that rooster seems to be mighty proud." The host replied, "He has a right to be proud because he just had two sons to enter the ministry!"

Chickens are truly "gospel birds". Jesus alludes to the "rooster", "hen", and "chicks" (Matt. 26:34; 23:37, NKJV). Following the instituting of the Lord's Supper during the Passover, Jesus told His disciples they would be offended ("stumble", NKJ), that very night in fulfillment of prophecy (Matt. 26:30, 31; cf. Zech. 13:7). Peter strongly asserted that he would "never be offended" (33). Jesus replied, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times" (34). Just as Jesus predicted, Peter heard the rooster crow following his third denial of the Lord (See vs. 69-75)! The result? "He remembered..., so he went out and wept bitterly." Beware of pride and over-confidence!

Jesus used the "hen and chicks" analogy to describe Jerusalem's rejection of Him (Matt. 23:37). His repeated overtures had been ignored to their detriment and eventual destruction. The mother hen gathering her chicks beneath her wings is a familiar scene from my early farm life. Such was done at the first sight of danger from storms or predators. On at least one occasion the mother literally gave her life for her chicks. Jesus did, too!!!

Jesus still invites us to come to Him (Matt. 11:28-30). He is long-suffering, would have all to be saved, desires none to perish, and calls all to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). There is shelter beneath (Psalm 17:8), and healing in (Mal. 4:2), His wings. Why do you wait?

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

WELCOME VISITORS: A warm welcome is extended to all our visitors. At least nine – out-of-town and local - blessed us with their presence last Lord's Day! Be sure to meet and greet all our guests.

SICK: Lola King and Faye Maberry are continuing treatments. Linda Cook is feeling better following three weeks of COVID symptoms, but is still testing positive. Barbara Anderson's cataract surgery on Tuesday went well. Doug Swann is back with us following a bout with the virus. Steve Harper is also back with after extensive back surgery. Hal and Ann Kirby are now at home. Joe Massey is undergoing another series of treatments. Dale Sadler (former member and preacher at Birdwell's Chapel), continues recuperation from hip surgery. Phil Bains (Rome) is dealing with an arm injury after being caught in a hay baler. Grant Lollar, son of Cary and Kelli (former members), will have surgery on his other foot in a few weeks. Gary Lawrence continues to recuperate at home. Remember Chuck Jordan (Red Boiling), who is dealing with cancer. Dennis Hackett's aunt, Joyce Kilgore, is very ill. Ruby Anderson continues radiation. Her kidney biopsy was postponed. Jaden Anderson is to have wisdom teeth extracted this week. Joe Hensley is still in need of prayers. Jan Anderson is currently rehabbing in the local nursing facility. Barbara Jenkins was able to be with us Sunday. Dale Woodard, Barbara's brother, is improving and able to be out. Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby, Melinda Spivey's parents, are now at home after hospitalizations. W. A. Gibbs continues his dialysis. Please call 615-735-0114 with updates and news items.

NURSINGHOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham (SCH&R); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Hattie Branham and Pat Paysinger (Shut-ins).

IN THE MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter's grand-daughter (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); Cameron Huff (USMC).

COMMODITIES FOR TN CHILDREN'S HOME: Thanks to everyone who participated in the commodities outreach for TCC. Glen Richardson came by last week to pick up the laundry detergent, paper towels, a coin can, and cash for perishables.

Helping the children is truly a "good work" in which Christians are to be involved (See Titus 2:14; 3:1).

PRAYER LIST: Gary White; A. J. Purkey; Tammy Crockett; Sammy Webb; Josh Dillard; Dot Holliman; Lavern Hardee; Mike Ruis; Alan Fitts; Joe Massey; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Barbara Williams; Michael Parsons; Laurie Adcock; Wendy Williams; Roslyn Fox Stout; Judy Fox Jones; Wanda Hailey; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Edna Shoulders; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Patsy Link; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Roy Hicks; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Tammy Bush; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; David Lipe; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn; Emily Allen; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Debby Flatt; 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; Buddy & Jan Chaffin; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Dennis Hackett, Drake Washer (2); Bobby Cross (5) Regina Rowland, (7); Julieanna & Jacie Morris, Makenzi Apple, (8); Justin Mauldin, Josie Beth Morris (11); Jodie Morris (15); Emma Hicks (17); Chris Hicks (18) Brian Denton; Brian Smith (23); David Cross (24); Chris Klamm (27); Courtney Washer (28); Dawson Azbell, Tony Hackett (29); Barbara Jenkins; Joe Hensley (30). Bobby & Mary Cross (11/05); Gordon & Barbara Jenkins (11/9/1973).

THANK YOU: The church has received recent "Thank You" notes from Lola King; Faye Maberry; W. A. Gibbs; and Jerry and Mary Phillips for the children's visits and the beautiful autumn wreaths.

SYMPATHY: To Mrs. Willie Youngblood in the recent death of her beloved son, Billy Gary. His funeral was conducted Tuesday.

VIRTUAL GOSPEL MEETING: Justin has arranged for three of our young men to conduct a Virtual Gospel Meeting the third week of November. Lessons will center around the theme of "Reasons to Believe the Bible is from God". We look forward to this event.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November, 2:00 PM (To be resumed when permitted); *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotionals: 2:00 P.M.* (To be resumed when permitted).

YOUTH VISITATION PROJECT: Our young children and their teachers and parents brought joy to all those visited recently to present them with a handcrafted autumn wreath. W. A. Gibbs summed it up really well: "They made my day!"

TRUNK OR TREAT: October 31, 5:00-7:00 P.M. in the parking lot. Contact Justin for more info and if you can assist.

"Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."