

LIFE'S GREATEST QUESTION

In life one must confront many great questions – Where will I go to college? Who should I marry? Where should I seek employment? How can I prepare for retirement? Where should I invest my money? – but none of these is the greatest question of all.

The greatest question of all has consequences beyond the limits of time into the vastness of eternity. The greatest question of all is that of Governor Pilate in Mark 15:12: “What shall I do then with the one you call the king of Jews?” (NIV). What shall I do with Jesus? Their reply was, “Crucify Him!”

What would some today do with Jesus?

A few would say, “Nothing – He never existed.” They would deny the scriptural and historical records.

Others would ignore Him as they seek to fill life with the pursuit of things and pleasures. But they find it difficult to ignore Him in the quiet hours of a restless night, or when faced with financial or physical stress or the death of family members or friends.

Still others would say, “I look to Him as an example.” And that He is! Peter declared that He left us “an example, that we should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21). But we need more than an example – we need a Savior, for “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” and “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 3:23 and 6:23a).

The wise receive Him as Lord and Savior.

“And as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” (John 1:12). On Pentecost, 3000 received the crucified and risen Christ in faith, repenting and being baptized “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38-41).

The most important question in life comes to you: **WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?** --Ron Bartanen, Arthur Church of Christ, Sullivan, IL

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. & 11:00 A.M.
12:30 P.M. (Last Sunday of month)

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Bible Study

Sunday Morning 10:15 A.M.
Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M.

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

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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
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“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

FRACTURED FAMILIES

Edward L. Anderson

When a family fulfills the plan and purpose desired by its Creator, it will be a blessing to its members and to the world. Furthermore, it will bring glory to its divine Designer. The family is seriously fractured in the present culture. The world, the nation, and the church are suffering the consequences.

God’s creation throughout is said to be “good” (See Gen. 1:9, 12, 18, 21, 25). But when God created male and female on the sixth day, it was thereafter described as “very good” (Gen. 1:31). There is something very special about the family unit.

God gave the first family instructions to be followed – “You may eat...; You may not eat” (See Gen. 2:18). Perhaps it was initially spoken to Adam, but Eve also clearly understood the words of God (See Gen. 3:2). From the outset God has regulated the family. He is particularly fond of His well-designed family unit. Those who tamper with it are on dangerous ground!

God’s care for the family is obvious in the Law of Moses. “Honor your father and mother” identifies the family structure God desires – father, mother, and children (Ex. 20:12). In other words, man, woman, boys, and girls. Note the accompanying promise – “that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.” It is reasonable to conclude that failure to comply with God’s will, would change the promised “long” days to “short” ones.

God’s concern for the family is further revealed in the commandment: “You shall not commit adultery” (Ex. 20:14). It is reinforced in the final commandment: “You shall not covet...your neighbor’s wife...” (Ex. 20:17). It is sad, even tragic, that in the present, God’s “Off Limits” signs are widely ignored. It is not without consequence. Personal responsibility and accountability are vitally important. When the family deteriorates damage is done in all other areas of life.

Jesus endorsed the creation account revealed in Genesis and in the commandments of the Law of Moses regarding family (See Matt. 19:2-9.). The letters of Paul to various churches usually had a “family section”. In fact, the peerless apostle, guided by the Holy Spirit, used the loving bond between husband and wife to illustrate the Christ/church relationship (Eph. 5:22-33). A similar section is found in the Colossian epistle (3:18-21). He routinely rebuked sexual immorality of every sort (1 Cor. 5:1;6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-22). It is a ruthless enemy of the soul.

The church, home, and family all need to be restored. May God help us to get and keep our priorities in order.

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 was down Sunday due to an unusual amount of illness (see News & Notes), and at least one family being out of town. We pray that all will soon be improved and back with us. However, we were blessed by visitors and the exalted privilege to worship together at 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. respectively and participate in our Bible classes. In addition to our regular, some of us assembled for an afternoon devotional with residents at the local health and rehabilitation center. Thanks to those who attended and assisted with the service.

The fifth Sunday fellowship meal was splendid with seasonal soups, chilis, stews, sandwiches – and desserts! An excellent number stayed and enjoyed the food and wonderful fellowship. Hats off to the cooks, servers, and those who cleaned up after the meal!

A special thanks to Justin Mauldin and Josh Brown for their instructive and uplifting lessons on the fifth Sunday. We are very blessed to have several brethren who are capable and willing to preach and teach the word!

Thanks to all those who have responded to the request for donations to the youth fund. If you would give to help with our youth work, you may give your contribution to one of the elders, Justin, or me. Don't forget, we are scheduled to host the next Smith County Youth Night on Sunday, March 5, at 5:00 P.M. Matt Landman will be the guest speaker.

The truck from Potter's Children Home was here last week to pick up items you donated for the children under their care. They extend their gratitude to the church here for your generosity and our support of the work. Let us accept the challenge and follow the command to be "ready unto every good work" (Titus 3:1).

Please pick up a copy of the current issue of The Spiritual Sword, edited by brother Alan Highers. This issue deals with an always popular theme: "Questions and Answers about Life After Death". Twelve excellent lessons written by faithful brethren are available in the edition. You will be blessed by reading them prayerfully with your Bible at hand.

May the Lord bless and keep you through the remainder of the week. I trust you and yours will be blessed with health, happiness, and hope. Pray the Lord to bring us together again. I hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00! **Edward L Anderson**

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Morgan Dodson was to be admitted to Vanderbilt today (Wed.), for the early delivery of daughter Emery Lee. Remember Morgan, Conner, little Emery, and all the family in your prayers. Cheryl Hicks underwent out-patient surgery at Cookeville Regional on Tuesday. Harper Whitaker injured her foot and is on crutches. Several are dealing with covid, respiratory (pneumonia) and stomach issues, etc.: Robert and Charlotte Henry; Hale and Elaine Wright; Linda Cook; Jodie and Josie Morris; and Carol Woodard. Carol's mother, Josephine Fitts, suffered a fall resulting in a broken ankle (3 breaks!), and is in the hospital at Murfreesboro. Faye Maberry began a new treatment plan January 30, 31. Vickie Brown, Josh's mother, is rehabbing after recent knee surgery. Michelle Allen is recuperating at home from recent spinal surgery. Steve Harper is recuperating from recent knee surgery. Lola King was with us Sunday, but is continuing treatments. Gordon and Barbara Jenkins were with us Sunday. Prayers are requested for Chuck Jordan (cancer treatments); Kevin Bray (recent heart catheterization); and Barbara Billington (Tom's mother), in the hospital at Lebanon. Continue to remember Jerry and Mary Phillips. Prayers are requested for Janice Hicks; Sonya Swallows (cancer); Bobby King; Joseph Law; Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Betty Carter; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife); Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Mark Goad (Bagdad); Janice Wilson (stroke); Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Joy Conner; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Robbie North, Barbara Billington (Pavilion – Carthage); Betty Denning (Quality Care, Lebanon); 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).

SYMPATHY: Sympathy is extended to Barbara Anderson in the recent passing of a cousin, Howard Fisher, of the Hiwassee community; and to the family of Amy Thaxton Ray of Sykes.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November. *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023.

TEACHERS & TEACHERS' HELPERS NEEDED: Thank you to those who have responded to our need for teachers and helpers in some of the children's classes. There is an ongoing need for teachers and helpers so that others might have a break. Sometimes a helper is needed because of the numbers in a class. Please contact Andy Rutherford if you can assist. Thanks Andy and all teachers for your service to the Lord!

THANK YOU: Barbara Jenkins extends her thanks for our prayers and cards.

AREA/YOUTH EVENTS: *Smith County Youth Nights:* Carthage will host March 5, 2023 at 5:00 PM with Matt Landman speaking; Brush Creek will host May 7, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS: The monthly meeting will be tonight (Wed.), following the service. Copies of the agenda are in the foyer.

THE MAID OF THE MIST

A cartoon from the past shows a boy standing in the very front of the boat called "The Maid of the Mist". The boat carries sightseers so close to Niagara Falls that they must wear rain gear to keep from being drenched by the spray. Wearing his raincoat and hat, the boy stood at the front of the boat, squirting a water pistol at the falls!

People can be like that; they aim criticisms at the Bible. Nevertheless, in the light of the Bible's continuing witness to the righteousness and love of God, any attempt to discredit its message is like squirting a water pistol at Niagara Falls.

Author Unknown

Copied from Zion's Bulletin

"Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven... Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:59, 105).
"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matt. 24:35).