

## THE POWER OF BAPTISM

The subject of baptism is often misunderstood. We know it is an important subject because Peter tells us baptism saves (1 Peter 3:21). It is not the water that saves, but it is our obedient faith in God's power that brings the result of salvation (forgiveness of sins). Despite the false theology of today, the Bible teaches us that baptism is essential for one to be saved.

Yes, we must recognize our sinful condition – die to it – and begin the new life in Christ. Paul explains how this new life comes about in Romans 6:3-5. Baptism is at the beginning of our commitment to Christ. What follows after baptism is spiritual growth and development, but salvation comes after one is baptized - not before.

Baptism is the place God goes to work and remits sin. In baptism we are cleansed of our sin (Colossians 2:12-13; Acts 22:16) and brought into spiritual union with Jesus (Romans 3:5). Think about it: Salvation (2 Timothy 2:10); No condemnation (Romans 8:1); All spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3) – All after one is baptized into Christ.

Do we believe God has the power to do what He says? (Mark 16:16).

(Rob Albright minister for Northwest church of Christ, Greensboro, NC, via BulletinGold January 2019)

### 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

#### Elders:

Michael Hackett  
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Johnny Law  
(615-735-1240)  
Jerry Phillips  
(615-735-0326)  
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Jeremy Hassler  
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(615-418-6637)  
Dusty Whitaker  
(615-281-8140)

#### Evangelist:

Edward L Anderson  
(615-735-2462)

#### Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)

#### Secretary:

Elaine Wright  
(615-735-0114)

#### 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.

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

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: [www.carthagechurchofchrist.net](http://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”**

## A WISE INVESTMENT

Edward L Anderson

A recent news story revealed an interesting happening in Connecticut. A gentleman browsing through yard sale items came upon a small soup bowl priced \$35.00, which seemed a tad high for such a tiny bowl. But he liked it, so he paid the seller, took it home, and later learned it was an ancient Chinese dynasty piece worth \$300,000 to \$500,000! Quite a return on a \$35 investment, wouldn't you say?

People are deeply concerned about their investments – CD's; IRA's; savings accounts; stocks and bonds; etc. Security and returns are of primary importance. Stock market trends are regularly reported in the 24/7 never-ending news cycle. The opening and closing are always headlined. Is it up or down?!

Jesus spoke about treasures – earthly and heavenly – in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6:19-20). Earthly treasures are subject to corruption by “moth and rust”. They may also be stolen by thieves. Heavenly treasures, on the other hand, are endangered by neither. The stark contrast He paints is enlightening and has been proven accurate time and again.

When the world's richest man dies, how much money does he take with him (See 1 Tim. 6:7)? The tombs of the ancients, when opened, reveal the valuables buried with their bodies are still in place. Grave robbers know that the gold, silver, jewels, and precious stones will still be there. It is still subject to theft.

It is evident that the wisest and safest investment, by far, is the heavenly one. But some will ask, is it worth it? Jesus does not deceive us, nor does He mince words. He tells us up front and in certain terms that there will be trials and temptations (Matt. 5:10-12). He even goes so far as to tell His disciples that the ultimate sacrifice may be required (Mark 13:12). Self-denial and cross bearing are required of His followers (Matt. 16:24).

The aged Polycarp (A.D. 69-155), a disciple of the apostle John, was subjected to persecution and ultimate martyrdom. When the proconsul urged him to swear and reproach Christ to be set at liberty, Polycarp responded, “Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury: How then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?” The officer was so astonished he sent a herald into the stadium three times to proclaim: “Polycarp has confessed that he is a Christian.” Polycarp did not cave!

Eighty- six years is not even a bleep on the “radar” of eternity. Whatever time is spent suffering for the Savior is time well spent. Jesus said, “Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, **for great is your reward in heaven**” (Matt. 5:12). Now that is a truly wise investment! Much greater and wiser than a \$35 soup bowl.

**FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:**

**Everyone Is Invited to Take a Journey!  
Travel with us and relive great Biblical  
happenings!**

## **“JOURNEY THROUGH THE HOLY LAND”**

**Visual PowerPoint Presentation of Historical Biblical Sites  
Accompanied by corresponding Scripture References and  
Readings.**

**Speaker/Narrator: Duane Gossett  
(McCoinsville church of Christ)  
(Gainesboro, TN)**

**March 7, 6:00 P.M. – Part 1**

**We will visit Beit She'an; Caesarea; Caesarea Phillippi;  
Capernaum; Mt. Carmel; Dan; Sea of Galilee; Mt. Gilboa;  
Jordan River; Megiddo; Nazareth**

**March 14, 6:00 P.M. – Part 2**

**Important New Testament Events Occurring in  
Jerusalem; Important Locations in or near Jerusalem;  
Bethesda; Gehenna; Golgotha; Mt. Moriah; Mt. of Olives;  
Pool of Siloam**

**March 21, 6:00 P.M. – Part 3**

**Bethlehem; Dead Sea; Elim; En Gedi; Jericho; Marah;  
Mt. Sinai  
(Printed handouts will be available at each session.)**

**All sessions will be at 711 North Main Street, Carthage,  
Tennessee. For more information call (615) 735-0114.**

**NEWS & NOTES:**

**SET YOUR CLOCK:** Time to “Spring Forward” this weekend as Daylight Saving Time returns. Be on time Sunday morning!

**WELCOME VISITORS:** A warm welcome is extended to all our visitors. We are honored to have you and your family. Come again! Delighted to have Will and Makenzi (Apple) Galey with us.

**SICK:** We were blessed to have Lola King, Sally Russell, and W. A. Gibbs back with us Sunday. Hattie Branham has been sick. June Futtrell is now on hospice care. Janice Hicks is awaiting results from surgery/biopsies. Barbara Jenkins received good news on recent tests – benign! Still having stomach issues. Peggy Denton continues to improve. Josh and Becca Brown are back with us. Recent prayer requests include: Donald Eskew (by niece Stephanie Stinson); Pete Williams (by aunt Carolyn Harris); and Steven Linville (by cousin Edward Anderson). Gary White, Allen's grandfather, is feeling better. Patricia Brooks saw her surgeon recently and is awaiting a radiologist visit. Faye Maberry continues to do well. R. W. Vincent's brother, Darrell Vincent remains in Owensboro (KY) Hospital at the present. Dennis Hackett's aunt, Joyce Kilgore, is improving. Joyce Burford, Carol Woodard's sister-in-law, is now at home. (Please call 615-735-0114 with updates and news items.).

**NURSING HOME/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).

**SYMPATHY:** Sympathy is expressed to the families of the following: Terry Martin, relative of Allen White; Wenn Bennett; and Barbara Anderson Williams. Remember these families in prayer.

**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).

**THANK YOU:** The church recently received a nice “Thank You” from the Wilma Richardson family for all her 100th birthday wishes.

**ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS:** The monthly meeting will be this Sunday (14<sup>th</sup>) afternoon at 4:30. Agenda copies are available.

**THANKS** to Duane Gossett for his great “Holy Land” presentation on Sunday evening! We look forward to the two to come!

**PRAYER LIST:** David Tucker; Mark Scudder; Zander Dixon; June Futtrell; Andy Futtrell; Patricia Nye; Buddy Hyatt; J.B. Dailey; Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Faye Massey; Joe Hensley; Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; Gary White; A. J. Purkey; Tammy Crockett; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Alan Fitts; Dan Winkler; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Michael Parsons; Wendy Williams; Roslyn Fox Stout; Wanda Hailey; 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; Tammy Bush; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; David Lipe; 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; Jan Chaffin; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby.

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November (To be resumed when permitted); *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted); *Bible Lands Studies:* Duane Gossett will be with us March 7, 14, and 21 for the P.M. services for his Bible Lands Studies. *Fish Fry*, April 10; *Gospel Meeting:* Clarence Deloach, of Cookeville, April 11-14; *Vacation Bible School:* June 7-11; **Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp:** July 18-24.

**AREA EVENTS:** *Ladies Days:* Crossville church of Christ, March 20, 9:00 – 12:00, with Laura Boyd; East Main (Murfreesboro), April 10, with Lori Boyd; McCoinsville (Jackson Co.), May 9, with Shanna Anderson (Amanda Scoggins and Vanessa Netherton -girls' classes). *Young Men's Seminar:* East Main, April 17, 8:45 – Noon; Josh Pierce, keynote speaker.

**VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM:** If willing to greet newcomers to the community, please let Josh Brown know. It involves a simple greeting and delivery of a “Welcome Packet”.

**TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOME:** We will again collect **liquid laundry detergent, toilet paper, and paper towels** for the children. The truck will be here April 15 (Thursday). Please bring the items to the annex. Also bring any coin cans that you have filled for pick up. Thanks for your generous participation. Optional \$20.00 for perishable items.