

PARADOXES OF CHRIST

Author Unknown

He was the Light, yet He hung in darkness on the cross.
He was the Life, yet he poured out His soul unto death.
He was the Rock of Ages, yet his feet sank into the deep waters.
He was the Son of God, yet he died a felon's death.
He knew no sin, yet he took our place and suffered in our stead.
He invited the weary to come to Him for rest, yet on earth He could find none for Himself.
He was the Mighty God, yet He became a servant.
He spoke, and it was done; yet He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death.
He was the Desire of All Nations, yet he was despised and rejected.
He was the Fountain of Life, yet upon the cross He cried, "I thirst."
He experienced death, yet through his resurrection He brings us life full and eternal.
These are mysteries the world calls nonsense. But to those with eyes of faith, it is truth incarnate; God's expression of His love for us.

"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ!" (1 Corinthians 3:14-16)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

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Number 14

CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
RETURN SERVICE
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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. (4th & 5th Sunday)

Bible Study

Sunday Morning

10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

7:00 P.M.

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net

Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on a cebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
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"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

WILLFUL SIN?

"For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins" (Hebrews 10:26).

Willful sin is a serious matter. Under the Patriarchal and Mosaic systems, one sin put you under condemnation (Hebrews 2:14, 15; 2 Corinthians 3:7, 9). When one obeys the Gospel of Christ, he is no longer under that threat (Romans 8:1). Yet, there are false ideas that have been developed from the above passage. The idea has been advanced that if one willfully commits a sin, he can never be forgiven, no matter how much he seeks it. To reinforce this false idea, the following passage is used: "...Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears" (Hebrews 12:16, 17).

The reason Esau could not regain his inheritance is because he sold it. It no longer belonged to him.

All of us are guilty of willful sin. If we cannot be forgiven for a willful sin, then all such sin is "unpardonable" (Matthew 12:32)!

Those who had left Judaism had departed from a system of animal sacrifices which could not take away sins (Hebrews 10:4). They had obeyed the Gospel of Christ (Romans 6:16-20). Jesus' blood had cleansed them (Hebrews 10:10-18). For some reason, they had rejected Jesus and His blood and returned to the blood of those animal sacrifices. It is only when they returned to Christ that their sins could be removed by His blood.

Any sin that a person willfully and deliberately remains in, refuses to repent of, and dies in, will condemn him. Will one be forgiven as long as he willfully or deliberately remains in sin? *No*. May he be forgiven when he willfully sins? *Yes*. If he repents and confesses it (1 John 1:7-9).

-Ray Hawk, via The Voice Of Truth International, Vol. 1-

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

WELCOME VISITORS! Greetings in the name of the Lord! We are delighted and honored to have you. We trust you will be refreshed and profited spiritually. If you have questions about things you see and hear, feel free to research them with us with the Bible as the guide. Please come again. May "the Lord bless and keep you..." (Num. 6:24-26).

Barbara and I arrived home from vacation late Monday afternoon. We were greeted by a cooling, soothing rain (about three inches in Tanglewood!), after several days rest and relaxation in Florida (Tampa/Clearwater/St. Petersburg). We are grateful for the time together and with family. I appreciate the elders allowing us to be away two Sundays in succession. I am grateful to Jeremy Hassler, Justin Mauldin, and Chris Hicks for preaching in my absence. We were with you "virtually" via You Tube and enjoyed participating with you in our worship of God.

Covid-19 is still very much in the news both here and in Florida. Masks were being worn by most everyone in terminals, restaurants, etc. We returned to learn of a "spike" in the number of positive reports from tests performed here at home. What can we do? Trust in God; be thankful and thoughtful; take sensible and necessary precautions; and continue to pray for those infected with/exposed to corona, as well as for all the sick. The fervent prayers of the righteous are effective (James 5:16).

The MAGI (Making A Godly Impact), boxes for the Honduran mission work are now available in the annex. Pick up as many boxes as your desire, but please sign the accompanying sheets for the number picked up. Don't forget to also check them off when you return them. This is a good work which blesses needy children. Return ASAP. Deadline is August 1. Thanks to all!

The "Pre-Camp" Singing is still scheduled at this time. The date is July 11 at Zion's building. The time is 6:00 P.M. The Run for Don scholarships will also be presented at that time. Matthew Jones and Kennedy Warren are among the recipients. This year's Run for Don is September 19 in Gainesboro (more details later).

Our Wednesday Summer Series – "The Story of Scripture: From Creation to Consummation" – is continuing with the fifth lesson in the series – "Resurrection", by R. W. Vincent - being presented this evening. A big "THANKS" to all those brethren presenting lessons during the series. We hope you will make plans to attend these classes or view them via live stream if unable to attend. You will certainly be blessed!

I hope to see you Sunday morning! Have a great week!

Edward L. Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Lola King had a procedure today at St. Thomas Mid-town. Pray for a good report. Jan Anderson is in rehab at SCHR. Barbara Jenkins has been ill but is now better. Joe Massey, Alan White's grandfather is dealing with cancer. Vicki Lankford (Ann Carter's daughter), has tested positive for COVID-19. Prayers are requested for Wendy Dickens, who is in Gallatin Regional ICU with COVID. Barry Cook is at home recuperating/rehabbing from knee surgery. Joyce Kilgore, Dennis Hackett's aunt, is dealing with kidney issues. Stephanie Vincent, cousin of Justin Mauldin, had surgery to remove blood clots in her lungs. Alan Fitts, relative of Carol Woodard, recently suffered a stroke. Faye Maberry has a cancerous spot on a kidney, but it is removable. Good to have Steve Harper back with us. W. A. Gibbs continues dialysis. (**Reminder:** Members, please contact office – 615-735-0114 – with updates.)

PRAYER LIST: Gary Dillard; Joe Massey; Wayne Lankford; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Barbara Williams; Michael Parsons; Laurie Adcock; Wendy Williams; Roslyn Fox Stout; Wanda Hailey; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Cathy Findley; Josh Dillard; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Edna Shoulders; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Wanda Hailey; Patsy Link; Tyrone Poynter; Mark Manning; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Shirley Henry; 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; Judy Fox Jones; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Debby Flatt; Ken Miller; Tom Brown; Alicia Haynes; Joey Black; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Tim Smith; Pattie Birdwell; Mary Ellen Lawrence; Donna Kemp; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Buddy & Jan Chaffin; Janice Anderson; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich.

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).

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); Derek Brothers (Army National Guard – now in the Middle East), Ruby Fisher's grandson-in-law.

THANK YOU: A "Thank You" note has been received and read from the Misty Smith family.

DIRECTORY CHECK: Please check with Jeremy Hassler if you need to see the proofs for the new directory so you can make any necessary corrections before the final printing. Let him know if you need a new photo taken. Thanks to the Reeves, the Hasslers, and any others involved in the production. The new directory will be most helpful.

CANS FOR KIDS: If you have a "Coin Can" for Potter's Children Home please return it ASAP. They will pick up the cans the week of August 16. There are 2 empty ones available in the foyer. This would be a good project for your children as well as for adults. Look around to see if you also have cans for Happy Haven or Tennessee Children's Home.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November, 2:00 PM (to be resumed when permitted); *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 7, 7:00 PM (No food); *Bible Bowl:* September 12; *Run for Don:* September 19; *Gospel Meeting:* October 4-7, with Clarence DeLoach; *Retreat:* October 9-11.

AREA EVENTS: *One-Day VBS:* Liberty church of Christ (Granville), July 18, 8:00 Am-3:00 PM with Micah Scoggins, Elijah Anderson, and Carver Moore speaking (breakfast and lunch served); *Singing:* Cumberland Caverns Singing hosted by Crossville church of Christ. Saturday, August 1, 6:30 PM – brochure posted; *Virtual Polishing the Pulpit:* August 12-20, 2020.

VISITATION: Thanks to all who assist with visitation. Presently we may not be able to visit in person, but please call and check on the one you are assigned. A personal note or card would be encouraging. Contact Josh Brown if you have questions.

COMFORT

In these "uncomfortable" times it might be "comforting" to think about "comfort". The primary Hebrew and Greek terms mean "to be sighed with" and "to call near", respectively (Young). Paul eloquently describes God as "the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3-4). How comforting the words of Jesus (John 14:1-3)! The Holy Spirit is called "another Comforter" (John 14:16), and "the Comforter" (15:26). His words are comforting, too (1 Thess. 4:18)! For true comfort seek and serve God! **ELA**