

NEWS & NOTES

THE SICK: *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home. Bro. Tucker 's condition was compounded last week due to a fall. ~ Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, **Nadine Thompson**, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen. ~ Eric White's father, **Jim White**, continues his cancer treatments. ~ Judy Williams' mother **Flossie Kizzire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ~ **Jerry Dickey** is continuing to receive cancer treatments. ~ **Frances Resse**, Aric Butler's grandmother, in Brookings, Oregon is very sick with lung cancer and has taken a turn for the worse. ~ **Carson Crunk** had his tonsils removed Friday and is home recovering and doing well. ~ **Helen Trousdale**, is home recovering. ~ **Sanda Martel** is still recovering from her broken leg. ~ **Virginia Lovell 's** tests came back and she does not have cancer. Yet now her mother, **Wynell Campbell** is in ECM. ~ **C.L Weathers** is home recovering from caner treatments. Others on the sick list include: **Austin and Audrey Goode, Sheila Goode, Jim and Brooke Phillips, Caroline Parker, Laura Andrews**

Let Us Keep Our Expecting Mothers In Our Prayers: Amy Bassham, Andrea Butler, Laurie Chancellor, Katy Garner, Suzette McIntyre

Other News: There is MORE directory updates on the table in the foyer. Tonight after evening worship we will have a **"new song" singing** in the auditorium for all that are interested in staying. Hope to see you there! Also,

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP: Tonight after our evening service will be the meeting time for "Group C". If you are in this group, be sure to attend this meeting.

FOR THE RECORD: (Week of January 25th)

Sunday:	
Bible Classes	99
Morning Worship	116
Evening Worship	87
Wednesday:	
Bible Classes	76

Schedule of Services

Sunday
 Bible Classes 9:45 AM
 Morning Worship 10:45 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM
 3rd Sunday Worship (*Singing*)... 3:30 PM

Wednesday
 Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Elders
 Michael Clemmons...(256) 247-0836
 Scottie Goode.....(931) 565-3391

Deacons
 Jimmy Glass.....(256) 247-0571
 Eddie J. Hammond...(256) 247-3038
 Mark McIntyre.....(256) 729-8316
 Steve Parker.....(256) 247-7843
 Phil Pressnell.....(256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose.....(256) 247-0011
 Brian Word.....(931) 565-3799

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Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation..." **Romans 1:16**

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Anderson church of Christ
 5900 Highway 207
 Anderson, Alabama

www.Anderson-church.org

Men Privileged To Serve This Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Classes
Song Leader - Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading - Rocky Rose
Joshua 2:8-14
Prayer - Brian Word

Sunday Morning Worship
Song Leader - Mark McIntyre
Prayer - Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding - Phil Pressnell
Assisting - Ronnie Phillips
Serving - Jim Phillips, Rodney McCrary, Brad Hammond, Michael Word
Closing Prayer - Brian Blakely

Sunday Evening Worship
Song Leader - Kevin Chancellor
Bible Reading - Jimmy Glass
Joshua 2:15-24
Prayer - Cecil Cox
Lord's Supper - Phil Pressnell, Ronnie Phillips
Closing Prayer - Steve Parker

Wednesday Bible Classes
Song Leader - Cecil Cox
Prayer - Jerry Dickey
Bible Reading - Aric Butler
Joshua 3:1-6
Invitation - Scottie Goode
Closing Prayer - Brad Hammond

FOUR SMALL, WISE CREATURES

Prov. 30:24-28

Matt Hennecke

I am constantly amazed at the variety of life on earth. Animals, fish, birds, there are all kinds and varieties of each, and the variety speaks loudly of God's existence (Ps. 19:1). But of all the creatures God has created, there are four that seem particularly wise, even though they are small in size: the ant, the badger, the locust, and the spider. No, I haven't lost my senses, nor am I "stretching" for something to write about! I am simply reminded of the words of the Proverb writer who said in Proverbs 30:24-28: "There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces."

THE ANT (vs. 25)

The Proverb writer begins by stating that ants are "not strong." In comparative terms this is true. After all, I can simply step on an ant and crush him! But in relative terms ants have amazing strength. Have you ever watched an ant carrying a morsel of food? They're tireless and strong. In fact, those who study ants tell us they can carry ten to fifty times their own weight! That would be like a 150 lb. man carrying an object of 1,500 to 7,500 pounds! But more important than their relative strength, ants are constantly making preparation for the future. It seems they never rest. They are in constant motion as they go about their work. In Proverbs 6:6-8, the "sluggard" is warned to pattern himself after the ant: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." Ants are also armored. Scientists call

the hard, outer shell of an ant "chitin." It protects them from a hostile environment and contributes to their strength. Similarly, the Christian is to be armored. We also live in a hostile world. All around us are evil men who would undo our faith. But God, in his wisdom, has provided us with a unique and glorious armor: "...take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13).

Like the ant, we must constantly prepare. We must tirelessly go about the work of the Lord. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

THE BADGER (vs. 26)

I'm not sure what animal the Proverb writer has in mind in this verse. The New American Standard (NAS) translates the Hebrew word (shaphan) as badger, while the King James Version (KJV) translates it as "cony" (rabbit). The concordances and commentaries don't help much either! Young's translates the Hebrew "shaphan" as "a hare, hedgehog, or rabbit," while Matthew Henry calls them "Arabian mice"!

Whatever they are, these animals make their houses in the rocks. They are small and weak, yet they have the wisdom to find security in the rocks. The spiritual comparison is compelling. Like the badger (or whatever) we can only find real security in the Rock! This message of security afforded by the Lord is found everywhere throughout scripture: "The Lord is my Rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust..." (Psalm 18:2). Note also Psalm 40:2 and 61:2. Notice Paul's remarks concerning the wandering children of Israel: "...for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ" (1 Cor. 10:4). The believer would be wise to emulate the rock badger by finding solace and care in the Rock that is Christ!

THE LOCUST (vs. 27)

A single locust is hardly noticeable. In fact, by itself, a locust is harmless and insignificant.

But when locusts travel together they get the world's attention! No one knows better the damage a swarm of locusts can cause than the Pharaoh who refused to let God's people go: "For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees...and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt" (Exod. 10:15).

The lesson of the locust seems to be that God 1) never intended for us to work alone, and 2) we can accomplish much by working together.

After the creation of Adam God knew it was "not good that man should be alone," (Gen 2:18) so Eve was created to provide Adam with help and assistance. This same principle of "joint effort" is described again in Ecclesiastes 4:9. The writer tells us that "two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor." In other words, there is strength in numbers. The modern world refers to this phenomenon as "synergy" which is best expressed in the following equation: $1 + 1 + 1 = 4$

With synergy, the sum of the parts is greater than the individual parts alone. The importance of working together, of emulating the locust, is clearly seen in Christ's establishment of the church which is: "...fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Eph. 4:16). The lesson Christians everywhere can learn from the lowly locust is this: if we "pull together" then we can change the world!

THE SPIDER (vs. 28)

The final creature mentioned in the passage again poses a translation problem. What exactly is the writer describing? The KJV renders the Hebrew word :semamith" as "spider," while the NAS renders it "lizard." Other translators even attach the word "poisonous" to the creature being described. More puzzling, however, is the meaning.

Unlike the earlier creatures, the analogy of the spider is not so clear. In his commentary of the passage, Matthew Henry says: "Spiders are very ingenious in weaving their webs with a fineness and exactness such as no art can pretend to come near. They spin a fine thread out of their own bowels, with a great art; and they are not only in poor men's cottages, but in kings' palaces." Perhaps, then, the Proverb writer would have us understand this: The beauty of the spider comes from within, and he shares this beauty whether in a poor or rich man's dwelling.

If this is the meaning, then there are many wonderful biblical examples of men and women whose inner beauty brought hope to both the rich and poor of the world. Joseph spun a web of beauty and godliness whether in prison or elevated to power in Egypt (Gen 39 - 41). Job spun a web of beauty ? a web of service ? when wealthy and when destitute. And let's not forget Paul. Whether preaching to the poorest of the masses or while imprisoned in the splendor of Caesar's palace, his inner spiritual beauty overflowed in his message of love for all who would serve God.

It is in the Good News of Christ, springing from within the true believer that "the rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all" (Prov. 22:2). - *from Exposit*

THE TRUTH SOMETIMES HURTS Jonathan Perz

How much do you appreciate the truth? The truth is easy to hear when it is flattering, encouraging and uplifting. However, the truth can sometimes hurt. Do you always desire the truth from those around you, regardless of whether it is favorable or not? Do you always demand the truth from those who preach and teach the gospel of Christ?

The truth pleased the rich young ruler until Jesus told him the one thing he lacked

(Mark 10:17-22). Some would call such a declaration of truth unloving, but the Spirit called it love (note verse 21). How do we feel when someone courageously and honestly points out our shortcomings (Prov. 27:6)?

Most of the Jews who heard Peter on Pentecost appreciated the truth, though it indicted them. They chose repentance and baptism (Acts 2:36-40). Whereas, those Jews who heard Stephen speak that same truth hated what was spoken. They responded by stoning Stephen to death (Acts 7:54-60). How do we respond to the truth?

The Galatians loved the apostle Paul—so much that at one point they were willing to pluck out their own eyes and give them to Paul. However, in the very next verse, Paul was compelled to ask if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth (Gal. 4:14-16). Do we despise those who tell us what we need to hear?

A few reminders should help us to realize the value of truth. 1) Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). 2) God's word is truth (John 17:17). 3) Knowing and abiding in the truth can set us free (John 8:31-32). 4) Those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness will face the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18). 5) We must always speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). 6) We should always speak the truth with our neighbors (Eph. 4:25). 7) Love rejoices in truth (1 Cor. 13:6).

Simply stated, unless we have a love of the truth, we will never appreciate the truths that hurt (2 Thess. 2:10-12). Unless we are willing to accept painful truths, we cannot know the sanctifying power of truth (John 17:17). Unless we obey the truth, we will be condemned (Rom. 2:8).

How much do you appreciate truth? The answer is painfully obvious when we are confronted with agonizing truths that require change in our lives. Change hurts, but the truth saves. How will you respond the next time you are confronted with the truth?