

DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

The new directories are available at the back of the auditorium.

CHILDREN'S HOME PICKUP IS TOMORROW!

Please have your donations here before noon tomorrow. Supplies requested are Dishwashing detergent (Dawn, e.g.), Non-aerosol deodorant, HE Laundry Detergent, Instant Rice, Muffin Mixes and Pickles.

WHEN LIFE SEEMS TO GO TO PIECES

There is a likelihood your life will suffer a shattering blow. Your own little world may seem to fall in pieces. You feel like you are coming unglued at the seams. The youth speak of it in a telling expression: "blowing your mind." You get so tense and uptight, you are sure you can't take another hour of it.

- A son or daughter gets picked up, possessing drugs
- An aging parent is impossible to satisfy and there is nothing you can do to change things.
- A very significant loved one dies and you can't get hold of yourself.
- An unexpected financial reversal comes and it will take you years to get back on your feet.
- You have an auto accident in which someone is seriously injured.
- You act compulsively and do a wicked thing you never dreamed you could do.

God never alters the laws of nature in order for a Christian to have an easy time! All the faith in the world won't allow you to escape trials and tribulations. Faith is simply the handle by which you can get a firm grip on God's grace, enabling you to weather any storm that beats upon your life.. **When you make your life a prayer, you never get to the end of your hope!**

Some of the most marvelous and reassuring verses in all the Bible climax the book of Habakkuk:

**"Though the fig tree does not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines,
The produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no foot
The flock the cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,
Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.
(Hab. 3:17-18)**



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Elders: Mark McAllister - 573-866-2514 William Meyer – 573-334-3130

Deacons: Barney Hartline – 573-335-1180 Jerry Keele – 573-334-8600
Rick Potter – 573-382-6471 Chris White – 573-579-9610

Evangelist: Ed Burrows Cell: 316-655-3530 Office – 573-335-7336

Church email: churchoffice@capechurchofchrist.org

Website: www.capechurchofchrist.org

SPIRITUAL FOOD SOURCES

TV Programs

"In Search of the Lord's Way" with Phil Sanders at 7:00 a.m. Sundays on Channel 9 (Fox 23)

"Good News Today" at 7:30 a.m. Sundays

"A Bible Answer" at 8:00 a.m. Sundays

Internet

Capechurchofchrist.org (<https://www.facebook.com/CapeChurchofChrist/>)
Sundays at 10:00 a.m., Sundays at 5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

From Harding University: Collegechurchofchrist.org

(<https://www.facebook.com/CollegeChurchofChrist/>) Sundays at 8 a.m.

Live Dogs and Dead Lions

Sometimes life is tough to figure out. Even Solomon, the world’s wisest man, had trouble with the meaning of life. If he struggled with it, it’s for sure the rest of us will, too. And we do. We wonder about why things happen the way they do. Good people suffer. Wicked people prosper. But then, not all good people suffer and not all wicked people prosper. And then, when things seem to be settling in and we begin to figure a few things out, death comes knocking. And the survivors wonder why!

In the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, we have a record of Solomon’s struggle of trying to figure out why things happen the way they do. Solomon experienced all the pleasures life can offer (*nice houses, lush vineyards, gardens and parks, huge herds and flocks of livestock, silver and gold, a harem – you name it, Solomon had it*). Yet, he still felt like life was vexing and meaningless. I know that you’re thinking that you wish you could try such a meaningless life for a while. Right?

But what Solomon is telling us in Ecclesiastes is that we shouldn’t waste our lives in pursuit of such trivial things. Things won’t make us happy. There is something much more important than what we can accomplish and accumulate in this life. That’s where live dogs and dead lions come in.

In chapter nine Solomon concluded that regardless of the kind of life we had, the one thing that is common for all is that we all are in God’s hands and will ultimately experience death and face God in Judgment. What we do in preparation for that is what makes life meaningful or dreadful. But once we die, there’s nothing that can be done to alter our destiny (see **Hebrews 9:27, Luke 16:19-31**). But as long as we are alive, we can make whatever changes we need to make to prepare for that Judgment. That’s why a live dog is better off than a dead lion. “*Anyone who is among the living has hope – even a live dog is better off than a dead lion*” (**Eccl. 9:4**). While there is life, there is hope.

Life can be filled with tragedy or ecstasy. More likely, it’s a varying combination of both. But that’s not what matters. While good things make life more pleasant, even happy people will have struggles and eventually die (**Eccl. 9:1-3**). So, instead of looking at the pleasantness or sadness of the events in our lives, we need to look through those events and see what is coming. Regardless of what our lives are like, we must learn to heed Solomon’s final conclusion: “*Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*” (**Eccl. 12:13-14**)

So remember, a live dog is better off than a dead lion.

Joe Chesser
Fruitland Church of Christ
Jackson, MO

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Hank Sessoms’ father, Henry, is improving, but please continue to pray for him. Continue to remember Mark in your prayers along with our shut ins.

<u>OUR MEMBERS</u>	<u>FAMILY & FRIENDS</u>	<u>WEEKLY REPORT</u>
Helen Coburn (LifeCare Ctr) Joan England (Life Care Ctr) David Mattingly (rm 308 Life Care Ctr) Mark McAllister (glioblastoma) Carson Pitman III Pat Smart (stroke/fall) Betty Tanner (shut-in) Jane Volkerding (shut-in)	Betty Allen (hospice) Donna Barnes (cancer) Tom & Mary Bollman Michele Campbell (back) Liam Clark Angie Northern Fabing Scott Hartline Karen Hubbs (brain cancer) Chris Hutson Suzanne Meert (cancer) Kevin Plemons (brain tumor) Barry Tate (stroke) Scott Taylor (cancer) Donna Thieman (cancer) Tony Wells	Sunday a.m. Worship: 46 Contributions: \$1,425.00 Budget: \$3,059.12 Family First: \$0 Please remember to leave your contribution in the tray on the table at the back of the auditorium.

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Carson Pitman, III, who passed away Wednesday, January 13. Please pray for this family.

CHECK OUT BIBLE TALK

Short lessons from God’s word are available at www.freegroups.net/groups/bibletalk. This is a free service to all and provides a quick and easy way to spend a little more time with God’s word. Short messages are posted twice a week (since 2005) with lessons designed to build up Christians as well as inform non-Christians about Bible topics. Invite your friends to take a look for Bible topics that interest them. For more information, see the flyer posted on the back bulletin board.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Jan. 20 – Elaine Smith	Jan. 22 – Deneace Kent
Jan. 21 – Chris White	Jan. 24 – Johnna Potter
	Jan. 25 – Glenna Ervin