



The Collinsville Herald

A Weekly Publication of the Collinsville Church of Christ.

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Collinsville Church of Christ

P.O. Box 158
2115 Daniels Creek Rd
Collinsville, VA 24078

Phone: (276) 647-8454
Fax: (276) 622-2929
Message Alert:
(276) 794-4035

Times We Meet:

Sunday:

Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
*Sunday gatherings are
In-Person & Online*

Wednesday:

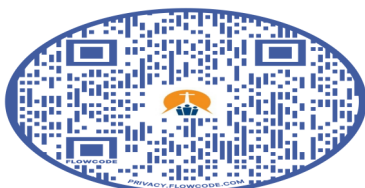
Bible Study: Online only on
our Facebook page.

Thursday:

Ladies Class: 10:00 a.m.
Coffee & Donuts: 9:30 a.m.
*In-Person & Online on our
Facebook Page.*

Office Hours:

Mon.—Thur.
9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.



'I Am' Able to Help You

Each of the "I am" statements of Jesus in the book of John displays an important aspect of how He can meet our true needs.

When Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), He stated that He can sustain our souls forevermore. He is that which nourishes and satisfies.

When Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), He was saying that He provides enlightenment and guidance in a place of uncertainty and peril. He will always be a beacon of truth.

When Jesus said, "I am the door" (John 10:7), He was disclosing that He is the passageway to heaven. He is also the portal to a better life on earth.

When Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), He was articulating that He will take care of His own. He can provide support, spiritual health, and safety.

When Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25), He was declaring that He can raise us from the dead. He can give us a new life upon the earth and a resurrected life in heaven for eternity.

When Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), He was revealing that the only way to be reconciled to the Father in heaven is through Him. He is THE way.

When Jesus said, "I am the true vine" (John 15:1), He was divulging that connection to Him is the formula for spiritual success. He guarantees growth if we remain with Him.

Our greatest needs are a relationship with God and a home in heaven forevermore. Jesus can meet those needs – and more! He is able to help us.

In fact, He is the only one who can help us in this regard. Jesus says, "I am" able to help you. Have you received His help?

—Edd Sterchi



Concealed Carrier

To get your concealed carry permit for a firearm in Kentucky, you can expect to undergo a background check, complete gun safety training, and pay a fee. There is a minimum age requirement, and there are other conditions to meet while holding a permit (which can be revoked or suspended). Did you know that in 2020, there were over 68,000 permits either issued or renewed? Since 1996, well over one million have been issued and renewed here. What does all that mean? It means that there are a lot of people you run into on the road, in the store, and just about any other public place who are carrying and you don't know it.

I do not mention any of this to induce or participate in a Second Amendment debate. There is a different type of "concealed carrier" which Jesus does not approve of. He preaches about it in His sermon on the Mount. He says, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Mat. 5:14-16). Jesus exhorts His disciples not to conceal the light of their influence.

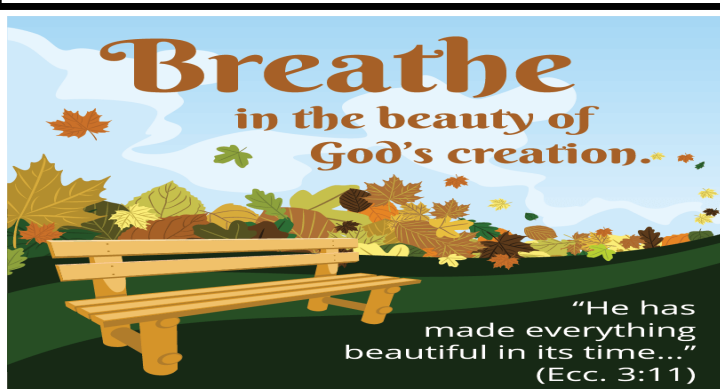
It is **impossible** for a true disciple to conceal their influence (14). Truly, one can claim to be a follower of Christ in an affirming environment like at church services or around Christians. Yet, if we can be around people away from these "easy" situations and no one knows, from our speech, action, attitude, and presence, that we are a Christian, how much of a disciple are we? Jesus says it should be totally obvious to everyone!

It is **unprofitable** for a disciple to conceal their influence (15). What good is it to be a disciple if those characteristics are suppressed and concealed? A lamp might as well be a piece of furniture if it is covered up. All the knowledge of who Jesus is and what He means is useless if we do not apply that by sharing Him in our daily lives!

It is **dishonorable** for a disciple to conceal their influence (16). Our "light" is connected to doing the good works of a disciple and others glorifying the Father by witnessing the fruits of our influence. If seeing Christlike influence at work honors God, what does the opposite do?

God needs us spreading the influence of Christ every day and everywhere. There is no "secret service" branch in the Lord's Army, and He doesn't want any "concealed carry" light-bearers! No, not practicing your righteousness to be seen of men. Instead, practicing righteousness openly and without shame as you conduct yourself among the world.

—Neal Pollard





Criticism and the Beehive

It is said that someone reported to Abraham Lincoln that Edwin Stanton, one of the President's cabinet members, had referred to him as a fool. Mr. Lincoln replied, "Well, I must check into that, for I have found that he is usually correct in his judgments."

This indicated President Lincoln's great capacity to handle criticism. Instead of returning criticism for the insult, President Lincoln forgave Stanton. The end result is that Edwin Stanton became one of Lincoln's closest allies.

Isn't it amazing how prone to criticism we human beings are? We can find an excuse or reason to gripe about almost anything!

If you pick up a daily newspaper, you will read of multiple stories of unfair and often untrue criticism, and often outright slander. We see this harshness among nations, political parties, families, neighbors, etc.

In James chapter 4, we observe that James not only raises the question of what causes such conflict, but he answers the question, giving both the specific causes of the problem and the cure.

The Cause, says James, is our conflicting desires—*a result of selfishness*. When we covet yet not get what we want, the result is unfair criticism, quarreling, bickering and fighting.

The Cure, says James, is submitting to God and resisting the Devil.

As Christian Gentlemen and Ladies, we need to remember this simple command: "Be ye kind to one another" (Eph. 4:32).

Someone has said: "You catch more bees with honey than vinegar." Criticism kicks the beehive over.

—Larry Fitzgerald

WORDSEARCH

Do Not Worry (Matthew 6:25-27)

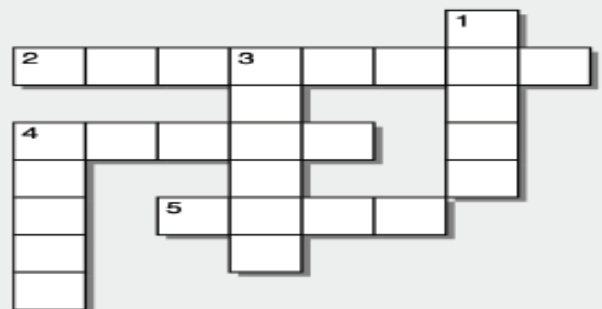
K	B	O	D	Y	C	K
I	O	F	R	D	L	H
M	O	R	E	R	O	B
W	C	U	B	I	T	I
O	L	F	O	N	H	R
R	I	Y	M	K	I	D
R	F	B	A	R	N	S
Y	E	H	D	G	G	D

BARNS
CLOTHING
LIFE
BIRDS
CUBIT

MORE
BODY
DRINK
WORRY

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CrossWORD



Abraham Offers Isaac

Genesis 22

Across

- 2) "I will ___ your descendants as the stars"
- 4) "Blessing I will ___ you..."
- 5) "In your ___ all the nations of the earth shall be blessed."

Down

- 1) Abraham built an ___.
- 3) "God ___ Abraham..."
- 4) God told Abraham to offer Isaac as a ___ offering.

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS FOR BOTH PUZZLES ON PAGE 4!



