



PREACHER-SHEPHERD

DR. JEFFERSON R. CARUTHERS JR.



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**COMMENTARY CORNER: "THE COSTS OF PRIESTS, KINGS, PREACHERS" (A Series)**

"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all" (Genesis 14:18-20).

Jesus appears in the Scripture from the beginning. There are allusions to his purpose on earth found over and over again in the first book of the Bible. He is seen as one with Elohim who created heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1-26). He is the agreed upon seed of the woman who would wound the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). He is seed of Abram who would bless the world (Genesis 22:18). Also in the book, he is both priest and king who is to be associated with Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18). And it is the ministries he has as priest and king that inform our study of how he represents our giving to God.

GIVING, OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICE TO GOD

When the study of giving is approached in the Bible it is often a question today of who will receive what is to be given to God. Pastors, preachers, bishops, and priests are all suspect as those whose motives for encouraging giving are suspect. Could it not be that these want to line their pockets with the hard earned income of both rich and poor. Do these not want to purchase for themselves luxurious mansions, private jets, vacation get aways as well as finance their actions in the dark? Surely God cannot be complicit with the kind of carrying on.

Knowing the concerns of the person who would give it is important to begin our study with the persons who were recorded to be the first givers: Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:3-5). We learn from them it is a matter first of one's relationship with God. How does one show respect for God? How does one acknowledge that what one has in life comes from God? How does one demonstrate to one's self that God is honored. Does a spirit of giving have anything to do with God. Is it in giving that one truly honors God?

Through the course of time Cain offered

to God from the fruit of the ground. Abel offered as well, from the firstling of the flock. What is important to recognize is that God is the only recipient of this giving. What we will learn is also from this giving is the very nature of giving, which is offering and sacrifice. God receives an offering, a sacrifice. All giving has at its core, what is central to it is the dynamic of offering and sacrifice. Whenever there is giving, there is an offering that is a sacrifice. Accordingly, it is just as important that we ask if a person is willing to give God an offering, a sacrifice.

GIVING, FRUIT, AND FIRSTLINGS TO GOD

Let us add here that giving does not begin with what I give to pastor, preacher, or bishop, it begins with what I give to God. There are people who arrive at church assemblies from week to week whose mindset about giving is that these people don't need my money. They are alright. They are doing fine, better than I am. Thinking this way, when it is time to give, they pass. What they did not understand is that they were not refusing to give to the church, they were saying something about their relationship with God. God was the one they thought not worthy of their living to give.

Exploring further, there is something more we learn about the giving of Cain and Abel. While it is a good thing to give, admirable in its intent, it is also important to remember that God does not accept all giving. Giving must reflect what I think of God. What I give God must be the best. What is most cherished. What is held in highest esteem. God takes no seconds. This is what distinguished the giving of Cain from that of Abel's. And there was a distinction.

The text reads about their giving: "And in process of time it came to pass, that

Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering. But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell" (Genesis 4:3-4).

There is often confusion about this passage beginning with the very thought that God would reject an offering from anyone. After all, there was labor and sweat to bring forth the fruit of the ground. Because of the sin of Adam we know that there the ground would be difficult to work (Genesis 3:17-19). Thorns and thistles would accompany the work that men would have tilling the ground. God should be thankful.

We often tell our families that we go out and work and get tired, dealing with people and circumstance, exhausting self just to make a living and there had not been anyone who was ungrateful for what we provide. Whatever we provide ought to be appreciated.

Men and women are to remember something. God gives the strength to labor and God gives production of our labor. And what does God deserve? We would think there would be expectation of our best. Cain apparently did not give God what reflected the nature of God. He must have what is best.

There were New Testament writings that reflected on Cain's giving in comparison with Abel's, even suggesting that there can be evil associated with our giving.

~Continued



CHURCH LEADERS

PREACHER-SHEPHERD
JEFFERSON R. CARUTHERS JR.

ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER
RICHARD JONES

SHEPHERDS
JEFFERSON R. CARUTHERS JR.
JOHN FOXWORTH
ROY OLIPHANT
WALTER WEATHERS, JR.

DEACONS
MICHAEL CURRY
JAMES E. GADSON
GEORGE MCNAIR
JOE WILSON

MINISTRIES ASSISTANT
LAMAR N. ROBINSON



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
MARCELLA KENDALL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVANGELISM CLASS: The next Evangelism class will meet February 26, 2026 at 7 p.m. All members are invited to attend. If you need additional information please see brother Jefferson Caruthers, Jr.

HUSBANDS & FATHERS MINISTRY MEETING
February 21, 2026 @ 10:00 A.M.

African American Heritage Recognition
Sunday, February 22, 2026

Details to Follow

Scripture Reflections

The Holy Spirit

John 14:26 ESV: But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Romans 8:26 ESV: Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

John 14:15-17 ESV: If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.



In Deepest Sympathy

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to brother and sister Raymond Richardson in the passing of brother Richardson's mother.

May God continue to comfort them during their time of bereavement.

sunday school



We are encouraging everyone to attend Bible school. We look forward to seeing you there. Come grow with us!



Attention all youth! Youth meetings held on the second Saturday of each month. If you have questions or need additional information please see brother Lamar Robinson.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT LUNCH PLANNING MEETING

2:30p.m.~4p.m., February 21, 2026
Where: West Town Restaurant
4371 Styers Ferry Rd. W-S, NC 27104
Please **RSVP by February 18, 2026**
Contact brother Lamar Robinson at robinsoncroc@gmail.com



Reading Safari

Keep Reading! The next Reading Safari Club will meet February 21, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.. For any additional information please contact sister Felecia Caruthers at (336) 575-2972.



4th, Richard Jones; 5th, Willie Massey; 10th, Erick Jones; 13th Lessie Williams, Angela Miller, Regina Scott; 15th, Reginald Nichols; 16th Alfreda Howell; 19th Mary Hargraves; 21st Detrice Ingram; 23rd Jewel Johnson, Kevin McLaurin, Lillie Nelson; 26th, Saundra Adams; 28th Rosalyn Evans, Jacalyn McCloud



1st - Rodney S. & Cheryl Evans (7 Years)
16th - Bobby & Twana Roebuck (18 Years)
19th - Micheal & Monique Curry (34 Years)
22nd - Richard & Wanda Jones (44 Years)
23rd - Ollie & Thelma Carpenter (74 Years)

WELCOME
We're glad you're here!

*All Visitors!
You Are Our
Honored Guests!*

CASH APP
SCAN TO PAY
\$CarverRoadCoC





OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN

Bro. Ollie Carpenter, sis. Thelma Carpenter, sis. Vanessa Cloud, sis. Hazel Gordon, bro. David Ingram, sis. Detrice Ingram, sis. Dawn Jones, sis. Carolyn Love, sis. Lillie Nelson, sis. Annette Nichols, sis. Bobby Robinson, sis. Mary Thompson, sis. Carol Weathers, sis. Lessie Williams

RESPONSIVE READING Luke 12:53-58

READER: The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

CHURCH: And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.

READER: And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass.

CHURCH: Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

READER: Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?

UNISON: When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, *as thou art* in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, give us the wisdom to discern the times and help us to live reflecting Your will. In the name of Jesus Christ we ask, Amen.

PRAYER REQUEST

Bro. Juan Williams, bro. Stephan Studevent, bro. Raymond Richardson, sis. Carol Weathers, sis. Tabbatha Burgess, sis. Diane Foxworth, bro. Walter Weathers Jr., bro. Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr., sis. Mary Terry, sis. Felecia Caruthers, sis. Cynthia Judge, sis. Wendy Thomas, bro. Roy Oliphant



SHEPHERD ON CALL FOR FEBRUARY

Brother Walter Weathers Jr.
(336)403-7005

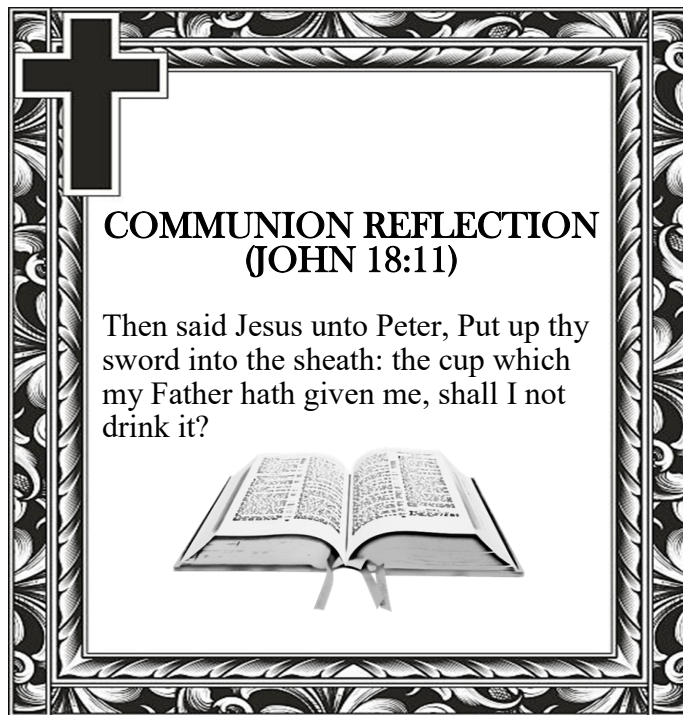
Order of Worship



9:00 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
INVOCATION
SONG DIRECTOR
SCRIPTURE
RESPONSIVE READING
PRAYER
SERMON
OFFERING
LORD'S SUPPER
CLOSING PRAYER
GUESTS PRESENTATION

Ron Jessup
Stephan Studevent
Lamar Robinson
Michael Mash Sr.
Jonas Caruthers
Joseph Wilson
Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr.
Isiah Black
Doug Harbison
Curtis Conner



COMMENTARY CORNER

The Apostle John writes about how we love: "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil and his brother's righteous" (1 John 3:12). The writer of the book of Hebrews provides insight into how Abel gave as compared to Cain: "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts, and by it he being dead yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4).

GIVING, GIFTS, AND LIVES THAT SPEAK

God testified of Abel's gift being rightly given. There was something that Abel realized that Cain did not. Abel brought the firstlings of the flock and the fat. God should

receive what is first, what is best. It was proportional and best.

Cain gave of the fruit of the ground, but there is no indication that it was first, that it was best. It reflected a mindset about the provider. We witness that same mindset today.

There are many who see God's part in production as that which is after everything I provide for myself. The mistake begins with thinking about what the individual provides rather than what God provides. There is no strength to work and no production of the ground without God.

The roof over our heads, the shelter from the elements, the food on our tables, the clothing on our backs is provided by God. Happiness in our families, protection from our enemies, order in the midst of chaos, healing from sickness, peace when there

is trouble, and hope for our future come from God.

How we gift God is evidence of what we think about God and life. It is not possible to recognize God as our Creator, provider, sustainer, and savior and in turn be negligent in our giving. God is the starting point.

Giving does not begin with what I think of pastors, preachers, bishops, priests, and kings. It is not whether I think people should benefit from my labor. Giving is a window into my faith in God. Will I live by faith in such a way that my giving reflects who I think God is?

Giving, offering, sacrifice, and gifting to God are a part of faith life. It begins with the individual not the collective. Let us appreciate this starting point before moving forward to witness how my giving supports the purpose and plans for God in this world.

SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

1st & 5th SUNDAY

Combined Worship.....9 A.M.
Bible School.....11 A.M.

2nd, 3rd, & 4th SUNDAY

Early Morning Worship.....8 A.M.
Bible School.....9 A.M.
Morning Worship.....10 A.M.

WEDNESDAY-MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

11 A.M. & 7 P.M.

MENS' & LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

5 P.M. (2nd & 4th Sunday)
(September-May)

MEETINGS & MINISTRIES

Teachers' Meeting.....9 A.M.
(1st Saturday)

Clothing Bank.....10 A.M.-12 P.M.
(1st Saturday)

Youth Fellowship Meeting.....10 A.M.
(2nd Saturday)

Husbands & Fathers' Support Group...10:30 A.M.
(3rd Saturday)

Young Adult Ministry.....6:30 P.M.
(3rd Friday)

WORSHIP TO THE SICK & SHUT-IN

**DISCONTINUED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



BAPTISMAL TEAM

Bro. George McNair
Bro. Walter Weathers. Jr.

RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS



Sunday @ 7:30 A.M.

Thursdays @ 3:00 P.M.

1340 AM - 1400 AM - 103.5 FM

YOU CAN BE SAVED TODAY!

To be saved today, you must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17; Acts 15:7). You must believe the gospel that assures us salvation through Jesus who is the risen Lord (Romans 10:9, 10). You must be willing to turn your life over to God through repentance (Acts 17:30; Romans 2:4). Those willing to live for God through repentance are ready for confession (Romans 10:9, 10).

The person who confesses is baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:27). In baptism, the believer is washed, sanctified, and justified (1 Corinthians 6:11). Christ saves the baptized person in baptism (1 Peter 3:21).

If you believe that Jesus died for you and was resurrected, if you will repent and confess, then you can be baptized into Christ and be saved. Come to Jesus today!



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

TEACHER(S)

Shundra McLaurin

2nd Sunday each month

ages 3-5 during

10 a.m. worship service

GREETERS

February 1st - Kim Littlejohn

February 8th - Renee Eccles

February 15th - Carolyn Robinson

February 22nd - Teresa Love

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Mary Terry

BAPTISMAL COMMITTEE

Lillie Holmes/Wanda Jones
Shagail Reed /Beverly Wallace

