

January 16, 2016

It was about twenty-six years ago when I invited nine men to study the Gospel of John for ten weeks. It was to be Thursday's over lunch at the Capital City Country Club, and in the interest of having all accept my invitation, I neglected to tell them the plan was for each man to teach one week. I taught the first week, and when I told them the teaching plan, there were audible groans.

About the eighth week, Harry Thompson suggested we all invite one more man, and go for another ten weeks. We did, and Harry is the only one of the original ten to still be attending. He is part of the City Club group.

Of the nine, Hank McCamish, Sam Ayoub, Arthur Montgomery, and David Coker, have gone to be with the Lord, and Ed Noble and Nick Chilivis are "under the weather." Jim Caswell joined the group a few years later, but if it was Thursday and Jim was in town, he could be found at noon at the Capital City Country Club. Russ Holliday was his friend from high school, and Russ joined us. Russ was a retired pilot, and my tennis partner from the airline days.

Today we were reminded, once again of how tenuous this life on earth is. It was six weeks ago yesterday, when I sat next to Jim at the Foundation of the Holy Apostles annual board meeting. Jim felt good, and he told me how glad he was that I had a clean physical with no sign of Cancer. Less than two weeks later, he was in the hospital.

I had been on the Board for twenty-five years, and my term was ending. I knew I wouldn't be going to meetings anymore, but I didn't think it would be the last time I would see Jim.

Jim lived Philippians 1:21...."to live is Christ, to die is gain."

We will miss Jim, but we will see him again ... soon.

(I wrote the above blog on the Bible Study, and the death of Jim Caswell. Ed Noble and Nick Chilives have died since then, and there are only four us left. I am looking forward to the celebration when we all get together!)