

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

Speaker, Robert Emerson

Study Sunday 10:00 AM

Worship Sunday 11:00 AM

Worship Sunday 5:00 PM

Singing every 2nd Sunday evening

Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor: Kris Vilander**Phone:** (256) 472-1065; (256) 472-1042**E-mail:** kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org**Website:** www.haysmillchurchofchrist.orgCome study
with us!**Servants during May:****Songleader:** Stanley (April 29), Larry (6), David (13), Chandler (20), Dwight (27)**Reading:** Stanley (April), Robert (May)**Announcements:** Marty (May)**Communion:** Mike, Buddy, Lakin, David**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (May 2), Kris (9), Mike (16), Larry (23), Stanley (30)**Lawn Mowing (week beginning):**

Stanley (29 April), Robert (6), Larry (13), Kris (20), Billy (27), Marty (3 June)

Singing: Buddy and Pam's (April 29)**Area Meetings:** Gooch Lane (every Sunday in April at 3pm); Southside (April 29-May 4); Market Street (May 20-25)**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

**The Bible .
Examiner***"Examine everything carefully..." - 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB*

Volume 1

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Number 7

I Want to Go to Heaven*by Kent Heaton*

Anyone of any spiritual consciousness realizes the joy of living for an eternal home. Heaven is a central theme for those who seek to live with the Father after this life. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:20, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ..." Our citizenship and our manner of life is resting on the hope of a place where "there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain" for God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Phil 1:27; Rev 21:4).

I want to go the Heaven to enjoy a life without pain and sorrow. Through the agency of rebellion (Gen 3), man has suffered the pains of sin. The glory of a heavenly home is to enjoy the communion of fellowship lost in the Garden of Eden. Man was driven from the garden because of sin but is allowed to return to the garden of Heaven through the sacrifice of the Lamb (Rev 4). The author of sin and damnation will have been cast into the "lake of fire and brimstone" (Rev 20:10) and those saved in the glory of God will no longer battle

evil as the final victory is given in Jesus Christ (Rev 19; 1 Cor 15:50-57).

I want to go to Heaven to end the struggles of pilgrimage. The Hebrew writer describes life for children of God as those who "confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own" (Heb 11:13,14). Living in a foreign country is very difficult. The language is hard to understand, the customs are not as we learned from our childhood, the sights and sounds of the foreign land are strange to us. There is a strong desire to return home where there is comfort, security and our family.

In this life spiritually, it is very difficult to live in a world foreign to the ways of God. The "language of Ashdod" (Neh 13:24) is hard to live with as the wickedness of man is great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart is only evil continually (Gen 6:5). The customs of the world are in accordance with the "the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life" and the custom of the world "is not from the

Father” (1 Jn 2:15,16). I want to go to Heaven to be with my family (Eph 3:14,15) and enjoy the company of saints and angels.

I want to go to Heaven to see God. The scriptures teach that no man has seen God save the Son (Jn 6:46). We have not seen the Son face to face as He is now enthroned on high at the right hand of God (1 Pet 3:22). When we are ushered into the hallowed halls of our eternal home, the face of God, the face of Christ and the face of the Holy Spirit will be greeting us with words of welcome. “There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; (4) they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads” (Rev 22:3,4).

The more one reads the words of God the more desire they have to see His face. We learn of His character, His love, His compassion, His mercy and grace through the testimony of the revealed word but to see Him face to face is to behold all His glory. The greatest reward in Heaven is to be able to stand face to face with Him who loved me to give me His Son (1 Jn 4:10); to see the one “who emptied Himself” becoming man to die for me on the cross (Phil 2:5-11); to witness the Spirit who led me and guided me in my life (Rom 8:14-17); to stand before the “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit” (2 Cor 13:14).

Are you going to Heaven? (Mt 7:21-23; 28:18-20; Act 2:37-40).

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place where there is no pain, no sorrow, no tears and no death. Hell, on the other hand, is a place that is nothing but pain, sorrow and tears. Who wants to talk about a place of torment anyway?

First, we must understand that Hell is real. If you believe in Jesus Christ (and you must to be saved – Jn 8:24) then Hell is real. Jesus taught an eternal punishment. “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels... These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’” (Mt 25:41,46). Jesus speaks about the danger of “fiery hell” in Mt 5:22,29,30; 18:9; the “sentence of hell” in Mt 23:33; the rich man who “lifted up his eyes, being in torment” in Lk 16:23 showing that punishment is real.

The New Testament writers speak of the punishment of God upon disobedience as in 2 Thess 1:7,8—“and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.” Peter writes, “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment” (2 Pet 2:4). John declares in the Revelation that there will be a lake of fire (Rev 20).

Anyone who denies there is a Hell denies the word of God. Most people deny there is a Hell for two reasons: First, they cannot fathom a loving God punishing anyone. The scriptures show that God will destroy the wicked. He did in the Flood (Gen 6-9); Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 13:13; chapter 19); even Israel (Deut 28; Amos 4). Paul reminds us – “Behold then the kindness and severity of God” (Rom 11:22).

The second reason people deny Hell is the way they live. We saw from 2 Thess 1:7,8 that God will punish “those who do not know God and... those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.” Most people deny God and most people do not obey the gospel. Jesus affirmed this when He said, “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.” (Mt 7:13).

Why is it that no one wants to go to Hell but most people live as if they do? We cannot live anyway we want but only in the will of the Father. It is not my will but the will of the Father that must be followed. “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord...’ then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’” (Mt 7:21-23).

Trenton, FL 12/20/05 

Hear the gospel of Christ!

Invite your friends and neighbors to



our meeting May 13-16

with Kasey Harbin

I Want to Go to Hell

by Kent Heaton

That is not a very happy title. I imagine it alarms the inner decency of most people and their feeling is dismayed at such a thought. Truth be told, it is a difficult subject to write about and talk about. However, if truth is to be told, the subject of Hell is just as

important as the subject of Heaven. Why? They are both very real.

It is easy to talk about going to Heaven (everyone wants to go there) because of the beauty, grace, mercy and love of God is fully expressed in the images of an eternal life. Heaven is a

Remember in Prayer

I haven't received news of anyone in need of, or requesting prayer this week... we can thank God for that!

However, continue to pray for those

who are unable to meet with us, including: Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Dennis, Dot and Tim Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.