

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:** Larry (6), David (13),
Chandler (20), Dwight (27)**Reading:** Robert**Announcements:** Marty**Communion:** Mike, Buddy, Lakin, David**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (2), Mike (9),
gospel meeting (16), Kris (23), Larry
(30)**Lawn Mowing (week beginning):**Robert (6), Larry (13), Kris (20),
Billy (27), Marty (3 June)**Singing:** Kris and Cindy's (May 27)**Area Meetings:** Oakland (June 4-8);
Pepper Road (June 3-8)**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**May 20, 2018**Number 10***Why Not Attend All the Services?***By Ralph Joiner*

It is not uncommon to hear someone say, "I can be just as good a

Christian sitting at home watching a religious

broadcast on television. I don't need to go to a special place of worship to worship God." I have had people tell me that they can worship God just as well on the beach or in a duck blind as they can in a church building. I have even known brethren who would go hunting or fishing on a weekend and take unleavened bread and grape juice with them, thinking they could forsake the assembly and still commune with Christ. Certainly, a building is not necessary for worship but that does not prove that it is unnecessary to come together with other Christians in order to worship God.

Can we establish from God's word that attending the meetings of the church is necessary? If this can be done, there should remain no question about

this in the mind of any God fearing Christian. Perhaps we should first ask, "Why should I not want to assemble with the saints at every opportunity?"

The problem of saints forsaking the assemblies is primarily one of attitude. It is a matter of how little do I have to do to get by rather than how much can I do to strengthen myself spiritually. This attitude will show itself in every aspect of a person's life: how much he gives monetarily, how much of his time he devotes to the Lord's cause, and how generous he is with his talents. Has God left this a matter of individual choice? God declares in Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another: and so much the more. as you see the day approaching."

Early Christians considered opportunities to worship privileges, not drudgery. The first and second chapters of Acts reveal that they not only met weekly, but often daily as well. That assembling was customary for these early brethren is reflected in the casual way it is mentioned in Acts 20:7: "And upon the first day of the week, when the

disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached to them." Why did these saints feel so strongly about coming together to worship?

While we cannot interview them, there are several conclusions we can make.


Perhaps these early Christians felt that assembling was a part of the command to "seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Mt 6:33). The church is God's kingdom on earth (Mt 16:18). Can we truly seek the kingdom first when we do not give the church first priority of our time and talent?

It may have been that these early saints found something significant in the first day of the week being "the Lord's day." This was the day on which He

arose from the grave, that He ascended back to heaven to continue His work of redemption, and upon which He established the church. This should be the most significant day of the week to Christians. What could be more fitting than to spend it in worship of God?

It could have been that they recognized the danger of forsaking the assemblies of the church. They expected that Christ would return soon. What better activity to be involved in when He appeared than in worshiping the heavenly Father?

What is your attitude toward the assemblies of the church? Are they treasured as opportunities or dreaded as distasteful duties?

Edited, via the Exhorter, Oakland church of Christ, April 4, 1999. 

zealous for the honor of God in a spirit which puts us out of fellowship with God" (The Gospel According To Luke, p. 132). This statement seems to exactly describe the mistake of James and John on this occasion. Their deep sense of loyalty and respect for Jesus caused them to want to defend Him in the presence of those who did not share their respect.

Their loyalty, by itself, was not a bad thing. In fact, it was a good thing—and quite admirable. But the way in which they wanted to show their loyalty proved that they had not yet imbibed enough of the spirit of Christ. Their response was totally out of character with His life and (saving) mission. Instead of trying to save the enemies of Jesus, James and John wanted to kill them—with fire from heaven! Here was zeal, for sure, but zeal in a wrong spirit.


This same thing happens to us today when we find ourselves despising the enemies of God—hating the sinner, rather than just hating the sin. Oh, we pay lip service to the fact that we only hate the sin, but our attitude, at times, subtly suggests otherwise. We tend to look down our noses at those whose lives are messed up by sin, thinking, "He's just getting what he deserves." Our attitude, even as we try to tell him about his need to repent, is, "You're going to hell and I'm kind of glad of it!"

This wrong spirit also manifests itself in the way some of us (especially

in writing) defend truth against error taught by denominational preachers—or even by our own brethren. I find myself, at times, in agreement with the point of truth being defended, but completely opposed to and even embarrassed by the spirit manifested in the one defending the truth. Instead of trying to correct those in opposition to truth with kindness and gentleness, in genuine hope that God will "grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of truth" (2 Tim 2:24-26), we seem to be more interested in being quarrelsome and stirring up strife.

When such an attitude finds place in our hearts it proves that we still have a carnal spirit—despite our zeal for Christ. It proves that, despite our loyalty to Jesus, we still have not yet imbibed enough of His spirit. Such actions and attitudes are totally out of character with that of our Lord's. And that carnal spirit, though filled with a loyalty to Him, will cause us to be separated from God.

Shall we give up our loyalty to Christ and compromise the truth? Never! Should we continue to zealously defend Jesus? Absolutely! But let's make sure that our zeal is tempered by His godly spirit! Let's not be zealous for God in a way that puts us out of fellowship with Him. No one wins when that happens—except maybe the devil.

Via Think on These Things, October-November-December, 2002 

REMEMBER: Sermons from the meeting with Kasey Harbin (as well as regular sermons, radio sermons, and bulletins) can be found at our website, www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Zeal for Christ in the Spirit of Christ

By Rick Liggin

"And it came about, when the days were approaching for His ascension, that He resolutely set His face to go to Jerusalem; and He sent messengers on ahead of Him. And they went, and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make arrangements for Him. And they did not receive Him, because He was journeying with His face toward Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said,

'Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But He turned and rebuked them, and said, 'You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them'" (Lk 9:51-56).

In commenting on this text, G. Campbell Morgan made a profound observation; he said, "It is possible to be

Remember in Prayer

Larry's mother and Marie McNatt both had surgery... Polly McNatt is feeling better, and is staying with her daughter; but she is going back to see if she needs a cast. Carolyn Dennis has tried every Sunday to meet with us, but simply

can't yet—let's pray for them all!

Please 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.