

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 July:****Songleader:** Dwight (1), Stanley (8),  
Larry (15), David (22), Chandler (29)**Reading:** Stanley**Announcements:** Robert**Communion:** Lakin, Mike, David, Marty**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (4), Kris (11),  
Mike (18), Larry (25)**Lawn Mowing (week beginning):**Kris (1), Billy (8), Marty (15),  
Stanley (22), Robert (29)**Singing:** TBD (22)**Area Meetings:** Hughes Lane (21);Cartwright (Singing, Aug 11;  
Meeting, Aug 12-15)**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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*The Glorious Church**By Robert F. Turner*

Christ "loved the church, and gave Himself for it;" (so reads Eph 5:25).

"THAT" (Greek "hina"—"so that, in order that") "he might sanctify and cleanse it—" (vs. 26).

"THAT" (hina) "he might present it to himself a glorious church." This "glorious" church is defined as one "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing;" but one that is "holy and without blemish." It is a fitting description of the bride of Christ.

Love is the motive that prompted Christ's sacrifice; and the instruments of sanctification and cleansing are here stated as "the washing of water by the word."

Carefully read Eph 5:25-27 and ask yourself these questions: (1) HOW is the church sanctified and cleansed; and (2) WHEN does this take place? We note that some seem to think there is a future time when,

by some process undefined, Christ will cleanse the present filthy, sinful church. Current imperfections are thus excused. We beg to differ with this traditional interpretation. We do not question the future reception of the church as the bride of Christ; (2 Cor 11:2-3; Rev 21:2) but we believe the "setting apart" and "cleansing" is NOW taking place, and has been in process ever since the gospel of Christ was first preached. To be in the "glorious" church of the future, one must be sanctified and cleansed NOW.

Christ died for a church yet in prospect. (Mt 16:18) He "purchased with his own blood" individuals of the first and following centuries who would receive Him gladly. (And in a very real sense, for those of past centuries who had put their trust in Jehovah.) The church does not save, i.e., one is not saved because he is in the church; but the church IS the

saved. Upon being saved from past sin one is added to Christ's church. Christ is the saving power; "church" views "as one" those who are saved.

Our text says Christ sanctifies and cleanses "with the washing of water by the word." We believe this refers to the water of baptism, to the act by which we "put on Christ." (Gal 3:27) But baptism is valid only as a divine injunction, done in keeping with God's word. We are sanctified by truth. (Jn 17:17)

One by one, individuals are forgiven of their sins as they obey the gospel of Christ. Thus, they come into the church cleansed and pure. But the future sins must also be cleansed; so "we have an advocate

with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." In 1 Jn 1:5 ff. we are shown the means of fellowship with God, and are assured of Christ's assistance in maintaining this fellowship. Repenting of each sin, we pray God through Christ (Acts 8:22-24) for continual cleansing.

Then I must conclude that the church distributively is cleansed, as saints repent and turn to the Lord day by day. The "glorious" church is that group of saints who serve Christ faithfully NOW—and are NOW being made ready for that great day when the Lord shall return in the clouds to claim His own.

—Via Plain Talk, Vol. 3, No. 11, December, 1966 

## Where did Cain get his wife?

Most folks know the account of Cain & Abel: they were the first two children mentioned on the earth; Cain murdered Abel, then Cain was driven away—but the inspired record then speaks of his wife... "Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. And Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived..." Gen 4:16-17a.

Where did she come from? This has been noted as one of the most frequently made objections to scripture—as if it is unanswerable. In fact, it was asked at famous

Scopes "monkey trial." Darrow asked Bryan; and sadly, Bryan said he didn't know. Yet scripture tells us that, after God created Adam and formed his wife from his own rib, Gen 3:20, "Now the man called his wife's name Eve [Hebrew for life or living--kv], because she was the mother of all the living." You see, Cain's wife came from among his own sisters! But before you cry foul...

Cain, Abel, and Seth are the only children named as a part of the first generation born; but they were not alone—Gen 5:4b, "...he had

other sons and daughters." Remember, Adam and Eve were told to have many children, and not simply three: "And God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth,'" Gen 1:28.

Now, some might argue, "You can't marry a relation—or at least, you ought not!" If you can't marry a relation at all, you can't marry a human—because every one of us is related, through Adam (Acts 17:26), and again through Noah (Gen 9:19)! Brothers married sisters at that time, and many would have been born in the intervening 130 years before Seth was born, Gen 5:3.

It is certainly true that in our culture, we don't marry a close relation today; and there is good reason for that: the closer you are as relations, the more alike you are with regard to DNA. That means that you not only have similar physical attributes, but similar mutations (problems due to a fallen world) in your DNA. If both parents

carry a particular mutation, it is more likely to be passed on to the children; but there was no concern with that at the beginning of time. Mutations were not a problem then; humankind was perfect—but since the fall, mutations in DNA came into play, and as they increased over time it became dangerous to marry a close relation.

God gave no injunction regarding the marriage of relations until Lev 18:6 (cf Lev 18-20). Before that, you may recall that Abraham had married his half-sister, Gen 20:12.

The question as to where Cain got his wife is really not that difficult. It may be that many (perhaps most) folks can't answer it because they are looking at things as they currently are rather than how they were at the beginning, and they don't understand the historical record as it is clearly presented in scripture. Genesis is a reliable record of what actually happened during creation and the beginning ages of mankind, inspired by one in a position to know: God himself.

—Kris Vilander 

## Remember in Prayer

Austin (Billy and Marie's 24 year old grandson) has been diagnosed with ulcerative colitis (apparently similar to crone's disease, from which our sister Carolyn suffers)...

Also, Stanley's aunt and uncle,

Judy and Roger Jackson are suffering severe illnesses as well; please pray for them, as well as continue to remember Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Dennis, Dot and Tim Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeple...