

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 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:** Kris and Cindy's (29)**Area Meetings:** Jones Road (15-20);
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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***What God Expects
of His Family****By Micky Galloway*

There is no greater blessing for disciples of Christ than to share together family life as brothers and sisters in the household of God.

Often in the Scriptures the relationship of the family is used to illustrate or describe the church. For example in Eph 2:19, we learn that the Gentiles in Christ, were "no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." Indeed, the church is the family or household of God. There is much to be learned from this analogy.

Different Roles

God is the Father in this spiritual family. It is not an accident that the apostle Paul begins nearly every epistle with the expression, "Grace to you and

peace from God our Father" (see Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:3). Those who have complied with His terms gain entrance into His spiritual family as children. Paul said, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." (Gal 3:26,27). As children, we have the relationship to each other as brethren. This demands mutual responsibility (Gal 6:1).

Different Stages Of Growth

Members of God's family are to "long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation," (1 Pet 2:2). Growth is both commanded and expected (2 Pet 3:18; Eph 4:14). If we fail to outgrow this baby stage, we will die spiritually. However,

as we grow in Christ, there are some attributes of a child that must be cultivated. Jesus said, "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 18:4). Humility is essential to our growth in Christ.

There are those in God's family who are old enough to know better than what they do. The apostle Peter becomes a classic example. In Acts 2:21, Peter quoted the words of Joel, "...IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." In Acts 10:34,35, Peter had learned "...that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him." Then again in Jerusalem, Peter defended the conversion of the household of Cornelius saying, "The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings." (Acts 11:12; cf. Acts 15:7-9). A short time later however, when Peter was at Antioch, Paul "...opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned." Paul explains Peter's hypocrisy, "For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision" (Gal 2:11,12). Wasn't Peter old enough to know better than to make such distinction?

In God's family some are weak. Those who are strong are to encourage the weak (Rom 15:1; 1 Thess 5:14). One of our mutual responsibilities to one another is to build up and encourage. This is one of the purposes of our worshipping together (see Heb 10:24,25).

Common Characteristics

Perhaps the most common characteristic in the physical family is love for one another. This should be true in the spiritual family, the church. Love of the brethren is commanded by Jesus as a badge of discipleship among disciples (Jn 13:34,35; see 1 Jn 4:19-21). This unselfish love one for another manifests itself with identifiable characteristics (see 1 Cor 13:4-7).

Problems


Most families have problems from time to time and so does the family of God. The real issue is what to do when these problems occur. Begin by examining self! This is the instruction to preachers (1 Tim 4:16) and to elders (Acts 20:28). In fact this is the instruction to all of us. Jesus said, "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him" (Lk 17:3). Paul said, "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!" (2 Cor 13:5). Pray about the problem. Indeed, we must pray for one another with the assurance that "The effective prayer of a

righteous man can accomplish much" (Jas 5:16). Work to restore the one who is the source of the problem (Gal 6:1). Above all, don't spread what you think about the problem. This is nothing but gossip (see Jas 3:5ff) and makes you a part of the problem.

Blessings of Family Life

To be in the family of God is to be an heir to the riches of the blessings. Paul said that if we are children, then we are "...heirs also,

heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ..." (Rom 8:17). James tells us we are heirs of the kingdom (Jas 2:5). Peter says that we become heirs of eternal life (1 Pet 1:4,5). Can there be any greater blessings than family life in the spiritual family of God?


—*Via Biblical Insights, Vol. 5, No. 2, Feb. 2005. What a great blessing it is to be children of God, and brethren in Christ!* 

The Clock of Life

The Clock of Life is wound but once, and no man has the power
To say just when the hands will stop—at late or early hour.

To lose one's wealth is sad indeed, to lose one's health is more;
To lose one's soul is such a loss that no man can restore.

Now is the only time you own, so live and toil with will;
Place no faith in your tomorrow, for the clock may then be still.

—*Anonymous. Isa 55:6,7 Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon..* 

Remember in Prayer

Betty still has struggles with Wall-Triana Hwy, Madison, AL diabetes; Kenny Paul, with the effects 35757. And continue to remember of his stroke... Please don't forget Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Madelene Britnell; she is staying at Dennis, Dot and Tim Hice, Polly Valley View Health & Rehab, 5968 McNatt, and Hazel Teeples, as well...