

**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 November:****Songleader:** David (4), Chandler (11),  
Dwight (18), Stanley (25), Larry (12/2)**Reading:** Chandler**Announcements:** Larry**Communion:** Robert, Marty, Stanley, David**Wednesday Lesson:** Mike (7), Larry (14),  
Stanley (21), Kris (28), Mike (12/5)**Lawn Mowing (week beginning):**Kris (4), Billy (11), Marty (18),  
Stanley (25)**Singing:** TBA (25)**Area Meetings:**

# The Bible . Examiner

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

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## WHEN A YOUNG PERSON GROWS OLD

*By Mark White*

Unless thwarted by the Lord's return, or an "untimely" death, all young people will eventually grow old. Regardless of how many creams and rinses are used, the aging process takes its toll on most members of the human family. Aging is an irreversible part of life, for if you live at all, you get older. The curse of our generation is an inordinate preoccupation with youth. No one wants to be old. At least, no one wants to look old. People do not mind feeling old as much as they detest looking old. But while the human family may take such a grim view of aging, the Bible does not so regard the aged. In fact, a special and significant honor is bestowed on the "hoary head" (Leviticus 19:32; Proverbs 16:31).

God enjoins us to "rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man." And "a silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness."

When a young man grows old, there are some definite changes which take place. Solomon gives a detailed description of the aging process in Ecclesiastes 12:1-7. Old age is called the "difficult days" in verse one. These days of difficulty are brought through hampering physical maladies which make it hard to really enjoy living. When our hands are racked with arthritis; the legs cease to carry our weight; our teeth are few and brittle; and our eyes grow dim, it is a "difficult" day indeed (verse 3). Even worse, the slightest of noises awakens us and


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robs our tired bodies of needed rest. Our ability to make melody with a clear, strong voice is gone (verse 4). And we are now frightened easily by heights and are more prone to worry about the dangers in our path. Sexually, we are either powerless or completely devoid of desire. Our physical strength wanes, and even the weight of a “grasshopper” is a burden too heavy (verse 5). In the difficult days of old age, the “silver cord” (nerves / spinal cord) is loosened and the “golden bowl” (brain) is broken, and senility takes hold. The heart and circulatory system is “shattered” and “broken” and death is not far behind (verses 6 and 7). A more complete and graphic description of what happens when a young man grows old has never been penned! But Solomon was not writing to an old man about something he was already experiencing in his aging body. There would be little value in telling an old man that his dusty frame was returning to the earth. He would know this without being told, being in the midst of the process himself. Solomon addresses the young who are not yet to this point of life. He said to the young, “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’.”

Solomon addresses the young man before he wastes the precious

time of his youth on frivolity. He is hoping that the young man will listen to wisdom and do something constructive with his days of brightness and strength. Solomon urges that the young “remember” the Creator, but this involves more than a mere mental recall of God. Consider what God did when He remembered Hannah (1 Sam 1:19). God did something for her. He gave her a son. Likewise, the young are to remember God by serving Him with the strength and vitality of their youth. This will also keep the young man from looking back on his youth with regret, as he remembers how he forgot God and wasted his time with vanities.

To be sure, it does not miraculously become easier to serve God as we get older. In fact, there is no time in life when worldly things automatically lose their appeal. Solomon advises that we get ourselves on target early in life. He labors to get us to see that it is ridiculous to put off commitment to God until later in life. While we may think the young deserve a chance to have their fling with life and settle down to spiritual things later, Solomon teaches just the opposite. In fact, age may work against us in our struggle to shun the world and obey God. And when we look back on a youth misspent — what a sad, empty, haunting gaze it will be.

— via *College View Columns, Florence, Alabama, date unknown.* 

# A Head on a Platter

Most folks are legitimately dismayed by the behavior of many of our leaders and the direction that society is taking; but I am more so by the comments of some of those Christians whom I admire and respect.

Some have noted that “All politicians are corrupt and the world is falling apart; yet God is in control, and this is not our home—so why worry about politics, etc?” They would say that, ultimately, the way we are to make a difference is solely by preaching the gospel and changing hearts.

No doubt, the difference we make eternally will be accomplished primarily by living out and actively sharing the gospel. But if we comfort ourselves thinking we are standing for righteousness by political inaction, we are in reality handing Satan our society’s head on a silver platter.

Some have said we cannot legislate morality: they are wrong. We can, we do, and we must; the only question is whose morality we shall legislate—and if Christians abdicate their place in society by refusing to vote, or by ignoring the things going

on around us, *they allow Satan to enact the legislation.*

If, as individual Christians, we can guide our society in a more godly direction, *we must.* Most men would not think of actively providing for a woman to be raped, or stand by, allowing a child to be murdered. How then can we allow sexually deviant or confused men to enter women’s restrooms, simply because they “identify” as a woman? How can we allow (and even financially support) the murder of children in the womb, in the name of “a woman’s choice?”

We may be unable to serve as did Joseph (Gen 41:41-44), Daniel (Dan 6:1-3), Mordecai (Esth 10:3), or Esther (Esth 4:14); but we certainly can act as did John the Baptizer regarding Herod... if we would dare accept the consequences if necessary, Mt 14:3-5,10. We should serve in whatever capacities we can, and thank God for godly men that serve where we cannot. *Government cannot be a minister of God for good, if good men refuse to serve, Rom 13:4.*

— Kris Vilander 

## Remember in Prayer

Tim Hice is back at Coffman Road for now...

Pray always for Lois Adams and her brother, Ted; Ruth Black, Carolyn

Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples; and Buddy’s friend, Herbert Sides.