

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

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We would love to
study God's word
with you!

**Servants during April:****Songleader:** Dwight (7), Stanley (14), Larry (21), David (28), Chandler (5/5)**Reading:** Larry**Announcements:** Robert**Communion:** Stanley, Marty, Chandler, David**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (3), Stanley (10), Kris (17), Mike (24)**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Marty (7), Stanley (14), Robert (21), Larry (28)**Singing:** The Hamilton's (28), 1708 Hollydale Drive**Area Meetings:** West Hamilton (7-9); Hughes Rd @ Gooch Ln (7 3pm); Eastside (Red Bay 7-12); Sommersville (7-10); Helton Dr (7-11); Needmore (Haleyville 14-19); East Florence (14-19); Eastside (Russellville 14-19); Jackson Drive (Mondays 3/11-5/13)**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

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If Miracles Go, So Does Napoleon

By Kenny Chumbley

Christianity's veracity rests on the factuality of certain miraculous happenings. If these happenings didn't happen, Christianity is worthless, 1 Cor 15:12-19.

In the 18th century, a Scottish philosopher by the name of David Hume argued that the miraculous happenings undergirding Christianity didn't occur. His argument against miracles has persisted, in various forms, to the present. In philosophy books it's usually found in the chapter on religion to prove that you can't use miracles to substantiate the claims of the Bible; it ought to be placed in the chapter on logic as an example of stupid thinking.

Hume's circular reasoning went like this: (1) only natural things occur in nature; (2) a miracle is a violation of the laws of nature; (3) thus, the claim that something miraculous occurred in nature is false. The maxim he


formulated from all this asserted that "no testimony is sufficient to establish a miracle unless the testimony be of such a kind that its falsehood would be more miraculous than the fact which it endeavors to establish" (An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding, p123). In other words, is it more likely that water would flow uphill or that a man who claims such is lying? Most folks would say the latter, which leads to the question: is it more likely that a dead man came back to life or that a man who claims such is lying? Hume affirmed the latter. "When anyone tells me that he saw a dead man restored to life, I immediately consider with myself whether it be more probable that this person should either deceive or be deceived, or that the fact which he relates should really have happened."

A good response to Hume is to point out the invalidity of his definition of miracle as "a violation of the laws of

nature.” The laws of nature aren’t absolute rules written down in a codebook, but are generalizations based on regularities observed in nature. Not infrequently, generalizations based on observations have turned out to be false. (A classic example is the old belief that the noble gases [krypton, argon, etc.] were inert, which meant they could not combine with other elements. In the 1950s, however, scientists did combine the noble gases with other elements [A. B. Niding, Fluorides of Xenon and Radon]. Hume would say that because “there is uniform experience against the noble gases combining, it didn’t happen.” To which anyone with a lick of sense says, “Baloney!”) People who die generally stay dead. But if there is unimpeachable evidence showing that a dead man came back to life, the unbiased will side with the evidence. If it is experience and observation that establish natural laws, experience and observation can also establish any exceptions.

Another way to answer Hume is to turn his reasoning against him. In 1819


Richard Whately, an Anglican bishop, did this in a document entitled “Historic Doubts Relative to Napoleon Bonaparte.” In this pamphlet, he applied Hume’s argument against the miraculous to an event of ordinary history by pointing out the unique character of Napoleon’s life: after marshalling France, he took the flower of French youth and led them to destruction not once, but five times. “In vain,” Whately wrote, “will [one] seek in history for something similar to this” (p25). Since nothing like this had ever occurred, Whately concluded, using Hume’s reasoning, that Napoleon most likely never lived—at the very time Napoleon was still alive!

This parody was hugely popular and did more to expose the speciousness of Hume’s philosophy than all other responses (no matter how astute) combined. Long before Rush Limbaugh used absurdity to expose absurdity, Biblical apologists (including Newman and Chesterton) effectively used this tongue-in-cheek technique to rout the illogic of unbelievers. 

by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that


end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,” Eph 6:13-18 ESV.

Not only is there courage needed for the application of the principles of conduct which God has given us, but you will never have them handy for swift application unless, in many a quiet hour of silent, solitary, patient meditation you have become familiar with them. The recruit that has to learn on the battle-field how to use his rifle

has a good chance of being dead before he has mastered the mysteries of firing. And Christians that have to dig their principles out of the Bible when necessity comes, will likely find that the necessity is past before they have completed the excavation. The actual battle-field is no place to learn drill. A soldier that does not know how his sword hangs cannot get at it in a moment, and will probably draw it too late. 

Remember in Prayer

Billy is planning to have some work done on his knee this week. Please note **Ruth Black’s** temporary address: Limestone Health Facility, Room 48, 1600 Hobbs St. W., Athens.

Please always pray for those that would like to but cannot meet with us, including **Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.** 

You are cordially invited to hear...

Messages for the NT Church from the OT Prophets: *Prophetic views of the church, Christ, and Christians*

Presented by Glenn Hamilton

Sunday, April 21st to Friday, April 26th

At the Hays Mill church of Christ meetinghouse
21705 Hays Mill Road, Elkmont, Alabama 35620

Topics include:

Sunday 10 AM	Building a Temple of God
Sunday 11 AM	Being a Temple of the Lord
Sunday 5 PM	Defiling the Temple of the Lord
Monday 7 PM	The Mountain of the Lord
Tuesday 7 PM	The Way of the Lord
Wednesday 7 PM	Running with Horses
Thursday 7 PM	The Day of the Lord
Friday 7 PM	The Son of Man

ARE YOU PREPARED?

By Alexander MacLaren

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given