

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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Won't you come
 study the word of
 God with us?

**Servants during June:**

Songleader: David (2), Chandler (9),
 Dwight (16), Stanley (23), Larry (30)

Reading: Mike**Announcements:** Stanley**Communion:** Buddy, Robert, Marty,
 David**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (5), Kris (12),
 Mike (19), Larry (26)**Lawn Mowing (week starting):**

Robert (2), Larry (9), Kris (16), Billy
 (23), Marty (30)

Singing: The Vilander's (23)

Area Meetings: Somerville Rd (7,9-
 12); College View (10-13);
 Eastside (9-14); Elgin Hills (9-14);
 Fourth Street (9-14); Lacy Springs
 (10-14); Hughes Road (15-21);
 Isbell (16-19); Tri-Cities (16-21)

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 2

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Number 9

Your Neighbor

By Marty Pickup

You may or may not know me by name. I'm the guy who works the same shift at the plant. I'm the woman who sat at a nearby table the other day at the doughnut shop. I'm the grease-stained mechanic who periodically works on your car. I'm the old man who walks his dog past your house every morning. I'm the teenage hot-rod who cut in front of you on the freeway yesterday, and then glared back in disgust as if it was your fault. I'm the feeble old lady who lives in seclusion in her house down the street. I'm that obnoxious beer guzzler you had to sit by at last night's baseball game, whose loud mouth you endured through extra innings.

No, I'm not a Christian. I'm just your neighbor.

You might not like the way I live or the way I act. As I see it, a little dishonesty now and then is natural, even necessary. I can use profanity as well as anyone, and I don't mind proving it on occasion. I think that happiness in life depends on what you have, what you can get, or what you can accomplish.

My life is centered totally around self. Isn't everybody's? Maybe God is up there, but I'm not concerned with him. If he has any concern for me, why did he take away my loved ones? I suppose religion is fine for some people, if that's what they want. But I think those fanatics who let it control their lives are fools. Life is too short, there are too many problems, there's too much pain. Why should I burden myself with something so restricting? And yet, no matter how hard I try, I don't ever seem to be able to find the happiness I'm looking for. I don't understand why.

I'm not a Christian; I'm just your neighbor.

You can see what my problem is even though I can't. My concepts of God, morality, and true happiness are distorted. I've misunderstood the purpose for my being here. I don't see sin for what it really is, a crime against my Maker and a cruel oppressor that holds me captive. And I don't realize that eternal punishment is only a heartbeat away. But you understand all

this. Will you allow me to continue in my ignorance without even lifting a finger to help? Isn't there anything you can do?

Perhaps if you'd show me some kindness even when I don't deserve it. Strike up a friendly conversation, show an interest in me. And don't be afraid to mention God or morality. Yes, I'll probably think you're a little strange at first but don't you see I need help in thinking about such matters. If left up to me those things would rarely enter my mind. Show to me the joyfulness that you say accompanies one who serves God. Let me see that there really are some people who have found contentment in life. Prove to me that total dedication to Christ lifts a man's burdens instead of becoming an additional one.

But don't stop there. Invite me to come to worship with you. Ask me to


The Last Fight

By Robert F. Turner

On the ruins of a theater in Ephesus there is a memorial to an athlete of the 2nd century A.D. which reads: "He fought three fights, and twice was crowned." Watch out for that last step! You see, those "athletes" fought to the death. A man's last fight was always fatal. So, the crown meant only that one changed opponents; and sooner or later the last would slay him.

What a difference in this crown, and that of the apostle Paul: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,

come join you in a Bible study. If I say "no" at first, don't give up on me. Tell me about God's plan of salvation; teach me those noble truths that you know so well. Above all, be patient with me. Don't become easily frustrated when those passages so clear to you do not appear so to me. Slowly and gently remove the scales of denominational religion from my eyes. Help me to be what I should be. Help me so that my soul can be saved too.

You may or may not know me by name, but I'll tell you who I am. I'm one who was going down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell among thieves. I was stripped, I was beaten, and I was left half dead. Some have already seen me, and yet have passed me by. I'm not a Christian. Won't you please be my neighbor? 

which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day..." 2 Tim 4:7,8.


Paul did more than fight "unto death" — he fought unto life, eternal. If his fight of faith cost him his earthly life, it only meant he was now free to claim the crown that counted most, Rev 2:10; 2 Cor 5:6 ff. How different from those who die without hope.

Paul sought an enduring victory — one that could not be taken from him. He exhorted Timothy, "Lay hold on eternal life..." 1 Tim 6:12. This called for training, perseverance, and above

all, self-control 1 Cor 9:24-27. The athlete trained his body only to prolong the day when it would fail him; but Paul trained his that it might the better serve the Lord, and thus serve his eternal purposes.

We are all engaged in some sort of battle, and in a very real sense it is "unto death." The fatalist, the fool, resigns himself to shortchange. Though he fights 3,000 times, he can expect but 2,999 temporal crowns, not one of

which he can take with him beyond that last fight. The futility of it all is enough to make a man throw in the towel.

The Faith gives purpose to life. The Christian fights, hard and often. But he has submitted himself to God's will, "strives lawfully," 2 Tim 2:5, and his fight is never in vain. Jesus Christ has provided for him a crown, and not for him only, "but unto all them also that love his appearing." 

A Little Too Kind

By Miriam Wengerd

I have wept at night
At the shortness of sight
That to somebody's need made me blind;
But I never have yet
Felt a twinge of regret
For being a little too kind.

—via "Keepers At Home," Fall 2018, p47 

Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for **Bernice Osburn** as she deals with double vision; and don't forget **Bob Broadus** as his foot heals.

The **Leopard family** is out this Sunday on vacation, and the **Vilander children** are at a gospel meeting in Tennessee—please pray for their safe return.

Remember **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**, both in nursing

homes; and pray always for **Lois Adams, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.**

Therefore, confess your sins to one another; and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

—James 5:16 