

**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

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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),  
David (7/7)

**Reading:** Mike; Chandler (July)

**Announcements:** Stanley; Larry (July)

**Communion:** Buddy, Robert, Marty,  
David; Lakin, David, Peter, Stanley  
(July)

**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (5), Kris (12),  
Mike (19), Larry (26), Stanley (7/3)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):**

Robert (2), Larry (9), Kris (16),  
Billy (23), Marty (30), Stanley  
(7/7)

**Singing:** TBD (7/28)

**Area Meetings:** Eastside (Redbay,  
7/7-12); Parkway (7/14-19);  
Russellville (7/14-19);  
Centerview (7/21-24); Belgreen  
(7/21-26); Piney Grove (7/28-31)

**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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## Rachel Weeping For Her Children

*By Larry Walker*

*This article references something becoming all too frequent today: a school shooting—this one taking place at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, where 20 year old man murdered 20 six- and seven-year-olds as well as six adult staff members, after first murdering his mother.*

"In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not," Mt 2:18.

After Jesus was born, King Herod's fear of the baby called "the King of the Jews" led him—in a fit of selfish rage—to slaughter all the male children 2 years and under. As Matthew writes about it, he was moved by the great grief and mourning in Judea, and he reached back to the time of Jeremiah, where parents grieved for their children who were taken away from them by the Babylonian king.

This has come home to us in the last few days as we hear the news from Connecticut about the horror of another shooting, and all the tragic aftermath. These were senseless and devilish, evil deeds—far beyond our day-to-day barrage of selfish acts, foolish indulgences, and careless injustices. Not since 9/11 have Americans been so gripped with sorrow and grief and anger. Among us here at Calvary Hill, we have so many teachers, principals, and students, so many parents and grandparents. They all hurt because of this. And the families directly affected—God help them all in his mercy and love.

Instinctively, when such tragedies strike, men turn to God in prayer, and reach for one another, sharing the deepest and truest and most God-like features within us. There are no human words that can really comfort those who lost loved ones, and no explanations that do not sound shallow and empty. The

only thing we CAN do is be quiet and hold one another, and grieve and pray.

But what a blessing if we could turn to the God of all comfort and hope! If we could hear HIS words in such times! Matthew tells us that in the very days when the Father was unfolding his plan by sending the Savior into the world, for the drawing and cleansing of men from their own evil ways—while the majestic Son of the Almighty God was still an infant—at that very time, other precious, innocent children suffered at the hands of the enemies of righteousness and mercy. The reason that Matthew recalls the passage from Jeremiah is because of God's promise there to hear the cries and sorrows, and to restore and heal his people, and to be the caretaker of their little ones.


Let us take it from His Word that there is much more than we can see or understand or explain in this tragic, broken world. Let us hold fast what we have confessed—that He lives, that He stands above it all, watching and providing, even though we cannot trace His ways.

Let us hold without wavering that He is the God of all love and mercy and right and good. That He loves and holds innocent children in his hands. Of such is the kingdom of heaven. Though they may be taken from us and from this world, they cannot be separated from the love of God, Rom 8:38-39. Let this tragedy make us more compassionate and humble, less complaining about our inconveniences, more patient in our own trials, more tuned to the grief of others, more selfless in bearing their burdens, and more concerned for the health of their souls.

Last night I heard Robbie, the father of one of the children speak. It was

absolutely stunning. It humbled me. He spoke first to offer comfort for the families of the other victims, AND for the family of the shooter. He spoke words of grace and forgiveness and dignity, even while he could not hold back his tears. Robbie rejoiced about his little daughter's beautiful life, her sweet character, and her good heart. He said her goodness and character were not due to himself and his wife, but were the gifts of "our heavenly Father." When asked why he was not angry toward the killer (and I have to confess that I have been), he explained how the young man abused the freedom God gave him, and chose to inflict pain and suffering. Robbie emphasized that he just wanted to use the freedom God gave him to console and heal and be a comfort and strength for others.

I do not know any specifics about Robbie's religious affiliations. But we can be sure that this man was touched by the influence of Jesus Christ and his cross. No philosopher, no politician, no king, no religious leader outside of Jesus Christ ever THOUGHT of forgiveness and mercy and love and grace in this way. It only comes from the God of the Bible, and it was written across all time and space in the cross of Christ. We should all kneel down there and through our tears of grief join with him, take our part with Him, Col 1:24ff!

Then we can go to the throne of grace, and there give honor and glory to the one who planned and unfolded it all, and ask Him confidently. We will find mercy and grace to help us in this time of need, and we will be ready to take, alongside our Lord, our own share of suffering in this world for the sake of his people and his cause. 

# God Expects People to Understand

By Aude McKee

In Matthew's account of the Great Commission, Jesus said, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." Why would Jesus, the Son of God, tell his apostles to go and teach people if what they were going to teach could not be understood? Did not Jesus, in the command, necessarily imply that the material to be taught was simple enough to be understood and that those to be taught were capable of understanding?

One of the answers to our present-day situation was given by Jesus a long time ago in Matthew 13:15:


*"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."*

Jesus placed the blame for not understanding squarely at the feet of

those who heard the teaching. They closed their own eyes, stopped their own ears, and hardened their own hearts so that they did not understand!

Incidentally, had you thought about the fact that if a thing is understood by two individuals, they necessarily will understand it alike? If two people disagree on something, one or the other (or both) did not understand!

If one person "understands" baptism to be sprinkling, and another "understands" it to be pouring, then neither of the two really understands what the New Testament teaches. Even the Greek word for baptism means "immersion."

In other words, it is impossible to "understand" baptism incorrectly. So if you and I disagree over something the Bible teaches, we both need to keep studying. When we both really understand we will agree. 

## Remember in Prayer

Billy and Marie's grandson, **Austin**, is in Madison hospital again; **Hazel** has had numbness in her legs due to arthritis; **Pam** has bronchitis; **Bernice** still suffers from double vision, but **Bob Broadus** is doing better with his foot.

Please remember **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**, both in nursing homes; and don't forget to pray for **Lois Adams**, **Carolyn Dennis**, **Tim** and **Dot Hice**, **Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples**. 