

**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

*"Come now, and let us  
 reason together," Says  
 the LORD..." Isaiah 1:18*



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**Servants during September:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (1), Larry (8),  
 David (15), Peter (22), Dwight  
 (29), Stanley (10/6)

**Reading:** Larry

**Announcements:** Robert

**Table:** David, Peter, Marty, Stanley

**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (4), Larry  
 (11), Stanley (18), Kris (25), Larry  
 (10/2)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Larry (1),  
 Kris (8), Billy (15), Marty (22), Stanley  
 (29), Robert (10/6)

**Singing:** The Leopards' (22)

**Area Meetings:** Pepper Road (21-25);  
 Hanceville (22-25); River Bend (22-  
 27); Hwy 157 (Ladies, 28); Q&A re:  
 Issues of the 50's & 60's, Bill Hall,  
 Calhoun College, Health Sciences Rm  
 105, 9/26 7PM; Phil Campbell (29-  
 10/2)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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# The Bible . Examiner

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

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# Forgiveness in the Old Testament

*By Tommy Peeler*

Were God's people forgiven of their sins in OT times, or were their sins simply "rolled forward"? The examination of this question must begin with the Old Testament, not the New Testament Scriptures.

I believe the Old Testament teaches that God forgave His people in the Old Testament.

**First, the Old Testament pictures God as a God of forgiveness.** In Exodus 34:6,7 God revealed Himself to Moses as One who is "forgiving iniquity and

transgression and sin." In Numbers 14:18 Moses quotes this verse to the LORD, emphasizing how God abounds "in love and forgiving sin and rebellion." The words of Exodus 34:6,7 are quoted or echoed in Psalm 86:5, Nehemiah 9:17, Daniel 9:9, and Jonah 4:2. The LORD God "forgives all your sins," Ps 103:3. "As far as east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us," Ps 103:12. His worshippers praised Him, saying, "But with you there is forgiveness," Ps 130:4.

Micah 7:18,19 presents a beautiful picture of God's forgiveness, saying He treads our sins underfoot and hurls our iniquities into the sea. Isaiah 1:18 says, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they will be like wool." The idea of God as a forgiving God was well known in the Old Testament.

**Second, there are several times in the Old Testament God told people they would be forgiven if they surrendered to His terms of pardon.** If the people brought the proper sacrifices to God, and leaned in humble trust upon Him, God promised they would be forgiven (Lev 4:20,26,31,35; 5:10,13,16,18; 6:7; Num 15:25,26,28). 2 Chron 6 records Solomon's prayer at the time of the dedication of the temple. Solomon asks God to forgive the people when they come to the temple to pray, 2 Chronicles 6:21,25,27,30,39. In 2 Chronicles 7 God assures Solomon He has heard his prayer, v12. He tells Solomon when the people turn to Him in time of calamity, He will forgive their sins, v13,14. God promised to forgive sins in the Old Testament. 1 Kings 8 is parallel to 2 Chronicles 6. 1 Kings 8 also begs God to forgive Israel's sins, 1 Kings 8:30,34,36,39,50. In Isaiah 43:25 the LORD says, "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your


transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins."

**Third, God is specifically said to have forgiven people in the Old Testament.** David (2 Sam 12:13), Isaiah (Isa 6:7), and Hezekiah (Isa 38:17) were all said to be forgiven. The author of Psalm 32 spoke of himself as being forgiven by God, v5. His words describing the blessedness of the forgiven man in v1,2 are quoted in the New Testament in Romans 4:6-8. God forgave Israel in the wilderness, Ps 78:38, and throughout their history, Ps 85:2; 99:8.

Usually the idea that sins were "rolled forward" is defended by an appeal to the New Testament, not the Old. Hebrews 10:3,4 is the passage appealed to most frequently. However, the "reminder of sins" in v3 seems to have been in the mind of the worshipper, v2, not in God's mind. Animal sacrifices couldn't take away sin, v4. However, people were forgiven in prospect of the cross of Christ, Heb 9:15.

If there was no forgiveness prior to the cross, how could John's baptism be said to be for forgiveness of sins, Mk 1:4; Lk 3:3,4? Before His death, Jesus told certain ones their sins were forgiven, Mt 9:2; Lk 7:48. Were their sins actually forgiven? If so, obviously there was forgiveness before the cross.

Some of God's most beautiful promises of forgiveness are in the Old Testament. If those people were


not really forgiven, how can God's people today have assurance of forgiveness? 

## ***God's Power in Action***

*By Robert (Bob) L. Craig*

We hear the apostle Paul saying in Romans 1:16,17, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." We can be saved from the guilt of our sins ONLY by the power of God. No one else has that power. No man can forgive our sins. God has devised a source of energy or power that he uses in this salvation and that is the gospel of Christ. Paul says, IT, that is, the gospel, is the power of God unto salvation.

We hear him again in Romans 10: 16,17: "However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, 'LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR

REPORT?' So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." In other words, the word of God is the gospel and all had not obeyed that word. Faith is produced by hearing the gospel. Faith is confidence, trust. So we hear what God has to say in the gospel. We believe it with all our heart. And that kind of trust or confidence leads us to do what he says. People who had that kind of trust, asked Peter and the other apostles, "What shall we do?" A simple answer was given in Acts 2:38: "...Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." They would then have the two greatest gifts that God can bestow upon mankind: the forgiveness of their past sins and the hope of eternal life after a while. For what more can we ask? 

## *Remember in Prayer*

Please pray for **Abbey Vinson** and her family. Don't forget our sisters **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**, both in nursing homes; and continue

to pray for **Lois Adams, Carolyn Dennis, Tim Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.** 