

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

"...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
 —1 Cor 15:57



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**Servants during December:**

Songleader: Peter (1), Dwight (8), Stanley (15), Larry (22), David (29)

Reading: Robert

Announcements: Marty

Table: Larry, Mike, Lakin, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (4), Stanley (11), Kris (18), Larry (25)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): On Break...

Singing: TBA (22)

Area Meetings: Tri-Cities (8-11)

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road
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The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 2

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Drawing Strength from the Courage of Others

By Bill Hall

How thankful we should be for wonderful examples of courage that spur us on to greater strength in the Lord's service. Paul was just such an example: "...and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear," Phil 1:14. These brethren, formerly timid and reticent, were drawing strength from the courage of Paul.


Other examples abound. Stephen's plea, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them," surely had for its source of strength the forgiving spirit of the Lord, Acts 7:60. The Thessalonian church found a source of strength in the example of the churches in Judea,

1 Thess 2:14. The Philippian church, a model of courage and conviction, could no doubt trace much of its strength back to the wonderful example of patience and equanimity demonstrated by Paul and Silas while in their midst. The Hebrew Christians were admonished to "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith," Heb 13:7.

Christians of this generation are similarly drawing strength from the courage of others. Young men who refuse to miss services of the church to play on a ball team; young women who refuse to be seen in public in scanty attire;

business men who would lose their jobs rather than compromise their convictions; women who continue to adorn themselves in “meek and quiet spirits” whatever the sophisticated world thinks or says of them; sick people who bear their afflictions with patience and faith; elderly people who continue to attend worship when they are hardly able to go anywhere else; dying people who demonstrate how Christians ought to die; all are sources of strength and courage for others as they face similar circumstances. These all have a common spirit with the great characters of the Bible; they see in their temptations, trials, afflictions, and persecutions a

special opportunity to be like Christ, to demonstrate their fidelity to Him, and to provide a source of strength for those who might be weak and wavering around them. They seize the opportunity and stand, and all of us are stronger because of them. Of these courageous people this world truly is not worthy.

Are we, however, to be always on the receiving end of the strength of others? As we draw strength from the courage of others, we must in turn become sources of strength and courage ourselves. Others look to us. Each of us has a “charge to keep,” and “God to glorify,” and a “present age to serve.” —Amen, ed. 

“Everything Happens for a Reason”

By Greg Gwin

We often hear people use the expression: “Everything happens for a reason!” This saying is the postmodern, New Age version of the old religious saying: “It is God’s will!” Is this true? Is there a reason for everything? Does God’s will regulate all things?

First, some things happen because the Lord has placed


certain ‘natural’ laws in place that cannot be violated without predictable results. For example: a man breaks his leg. Why? What was the reason? He stepped off of a ladder and the ‘law of gravity’ prevailed. In this sense, we can understand and acknowledge that this ‘happened for a reason,’ though we doubt that this is what

the postmodern crowd means when they use that expression.

But, we must essentially protest the claim that God has totally predestined our lives, or that His ‘will’ controls every aspect of our existence. The Scriptures make it clear that God gives people choice. Joshua’s famous statement makes this abundantly clear: “choose for yourselves today whom you will serve,” Josh 24:15. We know that the invitation for salvation is open to all, but each one must decide: “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ ...let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost,” Rev 22:17. So, obviously, God has not predestined everything, else these statements about our freedom to choose would be senseless.

Further, we know that some things do, in fact, happen as a consequence of the choices God allows us to make. Good choices typically bring good outcomes, and bad choices produce bad ones. Many are suffering the ill effects of things they chose to do

or not do, while others are enjoying the benefits of wise selections. Moses advised the Israelites: “...I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,” Deut 30:19. To put it simply, choices have consequences. And while this is a definite rule of God, the specifics are determined by us and our free will, not His.

Finally, we must note that there is not always a clear, one-to-one corollary to be seen in every event in our lives. Sometimes bad things happen to good people, and vice versa. Why? Frequently we can ‘see’ it, but often we cannot answer, other than to lay it to the reality of living in this present world with its physical suffering and death. We may not be able to explain them, but we can use even the ‘bad things’ to provoke us to do what is right and just — as we seek for a world where such will never happen again, 2 Pet 3:13. 

Remember in Prayer

Robert has been suffering quite a bit following his dental work...

Please remember our sisters, **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**,

both of which are in nursing homes; as well as **Lois Adams, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples**. 