

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

"But Daniel made up his mind that
 he would not defile himself..."

—Daniel 1:8a



Preacher / bulletin editor: Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

**Servants during January:**

Songleader: Peter (5), Dwight (12), Stanley (19), Larry (26), David (2/2)

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Robert

Table: David, Peter, Marty, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (1), Kris (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris (29), Larry (2/5)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

On winter break...

Singing: TBD (1/26)

Area Meetings: South Cullman (17-19); North Jasper (18); Kelly Spring Road (2/21-23)

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

January 12, 2020

Number 39

Christians Love Company

By Jonathan Banning

They say misery loves company. I can't disagree. Though I'd feel compelled to add that misery is not unique, nearly everybody, in every state, loves company. The joyful love to be with the joyful, the cynic with the cynical, the optimist with the optimistic. Similar people feel an attraction to one another, a gravity which makes it easy for them to share an orbit. Why? In a word, encouragement. Keeping company with someone like me fills me with motivation to continue being who I am.

Recently, a good friend asked me to answer this question; "What is it like to be a Christian?" I wanted to share my answer with you, because not only does misery love company, Christians love company.

We walk the same path, and I hope hearing about my walk will help motivate you to continue yours.

What is it like to be a Christian?

To be a Christian is to fight a constant war. Not a war according to the flesh, but one fought on a spiritual battlefield, 2 Cor 10:3-5. It is a struggle, a conflict. Anyone with the slightest sense of the spiritual can detect the fog of spiritual warfare all about us. We walk a true and righteous path, upon which our enemy has placed trials and temptations. Haven't you felt them? Haven't we all noticed how he works? Every day he presses down upon us. He tries seduction and exhaustion, frustration and humiliation, deception, boredom and monotony. Constantly, the Devil

and his demons strive to gain ground in the conquest of our souls. Haven't you felt the pressure? To be a Christian is to fight a constant war, yet a war in which we've been given the weapons necessary to emerge victorious, 2 Cor 10:4. If you're a Christian you fight the same war I fight, I hope you remember that you've got company.


To be a Christian is to engage in a costly enterprise. I've learned quickly that Christianity is not for the selfish and frugal. I'm reminded of the words of Paul. "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering..." 2 Tim 4:6. Paul poured himself out, he let himself be spent completely for the cause of our Lord. That's our call. To be a Christian is to deny myself, take up my cross and follow Jesus. It is to not love the world nor the things in the world. It is to understand and fully realize what Paul means when he writes, "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me," Gal 2:20. I do not mean to imply that I myself have achieved this level of self-denial. I have not. I only wish to convey the message that we Christians are all attempting to reach higher levels of self-denial. The Christian walk has forced me to give less to myself and more to God. If you are a Christian you should be learning how to say "no" to self and "yes" to Christ, I hope you

remember that you've got company.

To be a Christian is to be free from despair and hopelessness. I do not mean that Christians are immune to those feelings. I definitely have had moments when I felt my predicament was hopeless. Maybe in the middle of a fight, maybe after succumbing to temptation again, maybe when I feel like sin is my only option. Those situations can lead us to despair, but, for the Christian, all despair is momentary delusion. The Christian always has reason to hope! Difficult times will come, but even in the slums and troughs of life, hope persists, 1 Cor 13:13. Our Lord provides and overwhelming source of hope which no physical suffering can comprehend. That is the salvation of our souls. If you are a Christian you've always got hope, 2 Cor 4:8. I hope when you are tempted to despair you'll remember that you've got company.

To be a Christian is to walk the only true way. To be a Christian is to be like Christ. That's what the word means. Christ would call Himself, "the way, the truth and the life," Jn 14:6. To be a Christian is to go the right way. It is correct: free from error. It is true: free from deceit. It is living: free from the power of death and Satan. If you are a Christian you've picked the right way! You've

picked the path you were created to follow. You've picked the example you were created to exemplify. You're fulfilling the plan made for you before the foundations of the

world, Eph 1:4. You're on the right track. If ever you are tempted to think otherwise, I hope you remember that you've got company. 

A Prayer for Every Day

May I be too brave to lie or be unkind.
May I be too understanding, too, to mind
The little hurts companions give, and friends,
The careless hurts that no one quite intends.

May I be too thoughtful to hurt others so.

Help me to know
The inmost hearts of those for whom I care,
Their secret wishes, all the loads they bear,
That I may add my courage to their own.

May I make lonely folks feel less alone,
And happy ones a little happier yet.

May I forget
What ought to be forgotten; and recall
Unfailing, all
That ought to be recalled, each kindly thing,
Forgetting what might sting.

To all upon my Way,
Day after day,
Let me be joy, be hope! Let my life sing!

—Mary Carolyn Davies, edited 

Remember in Prayer

We thank God that **Dwight Presnell** is recovering from a successful surgery (Athens, 318); and this past month has been particularly bright for **Joyce**! But Kris's friend and co-laborer in the

gospel, **Jimmy Gorley**, is very ill. Please pray for him, as well as **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**; also **Lois Adams**, **Carolyn Dennis**, **Tim** and **Dot Hice**, **Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples**. 