

Schedule of Meeting Times: *modified until April 30 due to the pandemic.*

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

Speaker, Robert Emerson

Study Sunday **Postponed**

Worship Sunday **Postponed**

Worship Sunday **Postponed**

Singing every 2nd Sunday evening

Study Wednesday **Postponed**

*Sadly, our gospel meeting
with Lowell Sallee has now
been postponed indefinitely...*



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

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org



Servants during April:

Songleader: TBD

Reading: TBD

Announcements: TBD

Table: TBD

Wednesday Lesson: TBD

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris
(4/12), Marty (19), Stanley (26),
Robert(5/3), Larry (10), Kris (17),
Marty (24), Stanley (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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Who Is It That Is Narrow?

By Grover Stevens


The following is an excerpt from a sermon delivered in 1948 in which this fine preacher of yesteryear described why he left the Baptist church.

Usually about all the enemies of the church of Christ can say against us is "they are narrow-minded." *Narrow* means *limited*, or *circumscribed*...

Have you ever wondered just *why* we are called "narrow-minded"? *It is NOT because we point out and condemn error, because all preachers do that.* The Baptists' condemn the Methodists for sprinkling and infant membership, and the Methodists do not get mad and call them narrow-minded. Then too, the Methodists condemn the Baptist doctrine of the impossibility of apostasy, or once saved always saved, and the Baptists do not get mad and accuse the Methodists of

being narrow-minded and bigoted. Yet, when I condemn the Methodists for sprinkling, and the Baptists for "once saved always saved," no more than they do themselves, they both get together and charge me of being narrow-minded. Why? I think I know why. When the Baptist preacher finishes condemning sprinkling, he tells them that it doesn't make any difference what you believe anyhow, and the Methodist preacher does likewise. But, when I get through pointing out that the Bible does not teach sprinkling for baptism, infant membership in the church, "once saved always saved", etc., and instead of telling the audience that it doesn't make any difference anyhow, I plead with them to accept and obey the truth, the word of God and turn from

these false doctrines. This is why I am branded “narrow-minded”, and it amounts to this: A denominational preacher will preach for an hour and “wind up” by saying that it doesn’t matter whether you believe what he has been preaching or not. This makes him BROAD-MINDED. But after I have preached for an hour, I “wind up” by pleading with you to accept it because it is the truth. This makes me NARROW-MINDED. Isn’t that the reason others are considered broad-minded and we are considered

narrow-minded? I wonder what Jesus thinks, do you? Let’s see, Mark 16:15,16 says, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT SHALL BE DAMNED.” This is a never failing test for gospel preaching. When a preacher says that you do not have to believe what he preaches to be saved, he is not preaching the gospel, for Jesus said, “Go preach the gospel ...he that believeth not shall be damned.” 

We’ve Come a Long Way

By John Gibson

About two years ago the Athens News Courier contained a quarter page ad inviting all to a “Free Community Cookout.” The ad went on to say, “Join us as we say, ‘Happy Birthday America’ on Saturday, June 30th. We will begin serving hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks at 6:00 pm and will serve until we run out. There will also be snow-cones, cotton candy, face painting and games. You will have the best

view in town of the City of Athens’ fireworks display.”


Don’t get me wrong about this. I’m a patriotic American who likes hamburgers, chips, and fireworks, so if this had been sponsored by the Lions Club or some other civic organization I wouldn’t have thought twice about it. However, this Free Community Cookout was sponsored by a local church, and

Life

Life! I know not what thou art,
But know that thou and I must part;
And when, or how, or where we met
I own to me’s a secret yet.

Life! We’ve been long together,
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather;
‘Tis hard to part when friends are dear—
Perhaps ‘twill cost a sigh, a tear;

Then steal away, give little warning,
Choose thine own time;
Say not good night—but in some brighter clime
Bid me good morning.

—Anna Laetitia Barbauld 




Check out our website! There have been dramatic changes—now, from it, you can access 428 pulpit sermons, 166 radio sermons, 49 “gospel meeting” sermons, 104 bulletins, and 254 articles! And all of them able to be located through an on-site search function!

Remember in Prayer

“...the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,” 1 Pet 3:10-12.

Sister **Ruth Black** passed away on Wednesday; and Hazel Griffin’s son-in-law, **Ray Wolfe** passed away a few days earlier; we grieve with both their families, and pray for them, Rom 12:15.

Let’s not forget **Madelene Britnell**; nor **Lois Adams, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples...** 

We will not meet again as a church until after April 30th, due to restrictions on all non-work related activities as outlined by the state health officer in response to the coronavirus pandemic. **Let us keep in contact with one another!**


voice asking why he had closed the knothole and shut out the wind? It was the North Wind speaking—a beautiful lady with hair like night. She and Diamond eventually struck up an acquaintance, and she took him on some wonderful adventures. Over time, she sought to correct his impression of her—the one left by her cold, blustery side, which often brought misfortune and ruin. When Diamond asked that she not blow in his face, she said she couldn't promise that, but she assured him that even when she was a frigid gale, it was to make things better, not worse. When she seemed ugly, she wasn't being bad but was trying to make ugly things beautiful. Initially, but not surprisingly, Diamond understood none of this.

In reading the story, it slowly becomes clear that MacDonald uses the North Wind as a stunning metaphor for Death. When you're in front of the wind, you're hit by gusts and gales that can destroy, drown, and bring sadness and sorrow. But there was another side to the North Wind, the back side. When Diamond was allowed to glimpse this side, he found the North Wind wasn't there at all; nor was snow, ice, or cold. There was, however, plenty of light and flowers and a river flowing through a meadow that sang tunes people could hear. Things went right at the back of the North Wind and left a feeling that was better than happiness.

After returning from seeing all this, nothing that happened to Diamond could make him miserable. In bad times, he'd dream of what he'd seen; and when the North Wind was a fierce, unrelenting headwind, he'd remember the song the river sang.

And then Diamond got sick. When a friend asked if he was afraid, he asked why should he be? "I only feel a little cold," he said.

One morning, they found him on the floor. At first, they thought he was asleep. But he wasn't—he'd gone to the back of the North Wind.

We find something similar to MacDonald's allegory in Scripture, where Paul tells the Corinthians about a visit he made to the third heaven. The headwinds Paul faced thereafter were terrible. He mentions them in places like 2 Corinthians 6:4–10 and 11:22–33. But despite the howling gales, Paul was "absolutely convinced" (Phillips) that no storm could separate him from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, Rom 8:38–39. I've got to believe Paul's persuasion traced, at least in part, to what he saw when he saw Paradise, 2 Cor 12:4. When the end comes, and the wind is furious and relentless, isn't it good to remember the land that lies at the back of the North Wind? 

that raises a lot of questions in my mind.

Is there anything in the New Testament that would suggest church sponsorship of such events is the will of God, Mt 7:21?

Are there any examples of New Testament churches, under the guidance of the apostles, 1 Cor 4:17, hosting community events with free leg of lamb, pita bread, chariot races, and such?

Can a church rightfully claim to abide in the doctrine of Christ, 2 John 9, and engage in practices never found in the New Testament?

When did the Lord tell us to change our approach from simply preaching the gospel as his power to save, Rom 1:16, to attempting to draw people with entertainment and food for their stomachs? See 1 Thessalonians 1:8 where it was said of the church in Thessalonica that "from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth."

Should our conduct be any different than that of Paul when he refused to give either the Jews or the Gentiles what they wanted, but insisted on giving them what they needed, viz. the message of the cross, 1 Cor 1:21-23?


We've come a long way from the New Testament pattern when it was the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers who were equipping the saints for the work of

ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, Eph 4:12,13. Now, most churches feel they need a director of basketball operations, a grill master, a face painter, and a host of other things never even hinted at in the New Testament. Yes, many churches, including those calling themselves "of Christ," have come a long way, but the question remains—who gave the instructions to move?

"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son," 2 John 9.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven," Mt 7:21.

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth,'" Mt 28:18.

"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book," Rev 22:18,19. 

Before You Hit "Share" or "Like"

Before you hit "share" or "like" on that post or funny story, let it simmer for a bit and consider Paul's admonition from Philippians 4:8.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Is it true? Each and every day, hyped up fear fed articles are posted about new applications, foods, vaccines, politics, local events, the family next door... Many of them are just not so. Simple common sense should tell us that one-half of these things are not so, and discretion should eliminate the rest. If it is really that important take the time to do some fact checking.

Is it honorable? Not every noteworthy event in life needs space in our heads. Mark your space with things worthy of real honor.

Is it right? Fanning the fire of rebellion towards things that are truly right tears down the very ones who need help the most.

Is it pure? It helps to become a little savvy with social media. Sometimes an old friend will pass along a great uplifting story, but they shared it from a Facebook group or page that either has a foul name, or commonly passes along material filled with profanity. Make a choice to check out first if the story is true, and then find a clean source to share. Not only will you help yourself, you help those who you want to encourage.

Is it lovely? Your kids and grandkids are — that 14th million "share" of "people of Walmart" is not.

Is it of good repute? Remember your reputation. When you share that page, your character goes with it, for good or ill, they will be latched together from that point on. Do you really think those two or three good

things are worth the filth one needs to swim through.

Is there any excellence? Is this really what it seems to be, and does it provide the best you want those whom you care about and lead to follow. Does it raise the bar?

Is it worthy of praise? Life is already full of enough sorrow. Our

broken hearts desperately need things worthy of praise and rejoicing.

Remember Solomon's admonition, Prov 4:34—"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

Author unknown... 

At the Back of the North Wind

By Kenny Chumbley

This article was originally printed in the last months of the year. We are in the springtime rather than winter; yet the issues swirling around us like leaves on the ground can make us pause similarly in thought...

We're at that time, as Dickens described it, "when the old year is preparing... to call his friends around him, and amidst the sound of feasting and revelry to pass gently and calmly away."

Invariably, at the end of every year, we pause to remember loved ones who are no longer with us, and maybe we remember that we will soon join them—which can be a

disquieting thought, unless it's quieted by hope.

In George MacDonald's book *At the Back of the North Wind*, Diamond is a poor, young boy who sleeps in a hayloft. The walls of the loft were only thin lumber, and one winter's night, the wind blew out a knothole and came in like a long, whistling spear of cold. The next day, when Diamond's mother saw the hole, she pasted a bit of paper over it to stop the wind.

That night when he went to bed, Diamond heard something. Putting his ear next to the paper, he heard a