

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

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

*"How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart."  
—Psalm 119:2*



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**Servants during April and May:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (5/3), Larry (10), David (17), Peter (24), Chandler (31)

**Reading:** David (May)

**Announcements:** Stanley (May)

**Table:** Larry, Chandler, Mike, Marty (May)

**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (5/6), Kris (13), Larry (20), Stanley (27)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Larry (4/5), Kris (12), Marty (19), Stanley (26), Robert? (5/3), Larry (10), Kris (17), Marty (24), Stanley (31)

# The Bible . E X a m i n e r

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

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Number 2

## *A Little May Go a Long Way*

*By Dee Bowman*

A young man preached his heart out. He was barely 23 years old and this was his first gospel meeting. How his heart did beat when he received the invitation to come and preach for the small group of brethren in this little community. Visions of huge crowds, high excitement, lots of responses filled his head as he contemplated the coming event. When the time came he was almost out of breath with excitement.

Although the crowds were fair, there was seemingly very

little excitement during the meeting. Brethren listened attentively, but their reaction was basically one of quiet politeness. He preached his heart out for two weeks. When the meeting was concluded, one person—a little girl 12 years old—obeyed the gospel. He was discouraged, disappointed.

Before returning home, he called together the elders of the little congregation and apologized to them. "I guess I'm not as far along as I thought I was," he said, "I'm sorry for the

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fact that only one person responded to the invitation. I'll try and do better the next time—that is, if there is a next time," he said. The elders sought in vain to console him as he went on his way.

Years passed. The little girl grew up. She married a fine Christian. To this union was born five sons. All five of the sons became gospel preachers. Through their efforts thousands of people learned about Jesus and obeyed the gospel.

All this, because of the effort of one young, inexperienced gospel preacher.

Influence is interesting. You never know how much you have or what that influence may accomplish. Even people who think themselves to have very little of it have been known to have a profound effect on the lives of others. And influences are not always huge, either. Lots of times it's little acts that impress us. And many times we don't even realize our influence is being felt.

One thing is certain: we need to learn that there's power in influence—power for good, power for evil. You have such power. So do I. For instance, if you're an older person, chances

are younger people are watching you and some of them are apt to follow your example, whether you know it or not. If you are younger, there are still kids who are younger still who may well be patterning their lives after you. So it's important to "watch out where you're going" as my Dad used to say. How sad it would be to lead some person down the wrong path.

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 11:1, said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." The best following you will ever do is following Christ. And the best example you can possibly be is one where Christ is the dominant feature in your life. Lead yourself well and you'll lead others well.

And you don't have to be a gospel preacher to preach the gospel. All you need is a love for the souls of men, coupled with a burning desire to make the words of Jesus known. We need to be so fascinated by the gospel that we can hardly keep from telling people about it. Further, that gospel should have such an effect on us personally that it's obvious to all that we belong to the Lord, and that He alone guides our footsteps.

"And at that time there was a great persecution against the

Supper... His death and sacrifice for **MY** sins. Yet... some around could **NOT** have been remembering because they were busy with other things... a precious sacrifice forgotten.

Agrippa said, "Almost you persuade me to be a Christian," and so was I... Yet... during the invitation three in front were preparing to leave and while the song was being sung two left the auditorium just to return moments later.

I came to worship my Lord.

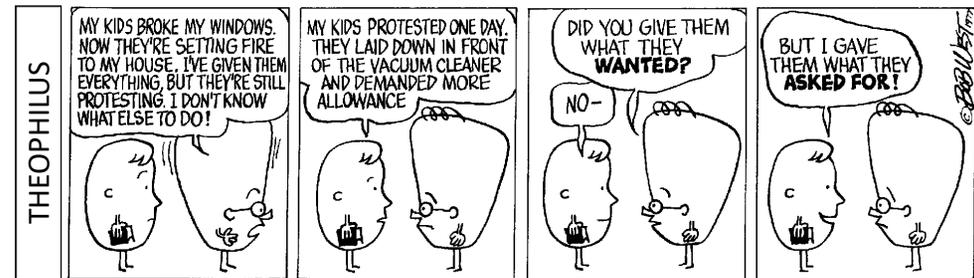
I came to hear His word.

I came to reflect on my relationship with Him.

I came to be persuaded to serve.

Yet... I was distracted.

Pray that **we** are never part of any distraction. 



## Remember in Prayer

*"And David built there an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD responded to the plea for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel," 2 Sam 24:25.*

**Robert** is still recovering from a mild heart attack, and the surgical insertion of a stint. **Hazel Teeples** is suffering from cancer, and doesn't sleep much—both she and **Barbara** can use encouragement.

Please don't forget **Madelene**

**Britnell**; nor **Lois Adams, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, or Polly McNatt** when you pray. 

*We are getting closer! Let us pray for God's will in this national crisis! We will not meet again as a church until after April 30<sup>th</sup>, 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!***

has yet broken out—for the two plans will not combine to advantage.

And here the parable ends.

The problem is a real one, however, and I suggest that before it becomes more serious, we all—without any committee or resolutions of conferences—begin with one accord to take such

places in our houses of worship as are assigned us by the careful ushers. If there are no such persons present, then let us quietly see what seats are vacant, occupy them, and worship God.

(Baer, Mervin J., Ed., *A Time to Heal*, Rod and Staff Publishers, Inc., Crockett, KY, 2002, p222. Printed by permission from Rod and Staff Publishers, Inc.) 

church which was at Jerusalem; and they were scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word,” Acts 8:1,4. I fear the gospel message doesn’t influence us like it did them. One small rejection and we’re apt to quit. And our folding up in our obligation may well cause someone else to do so as well.

We can do better. We must do better. We have to be like the early saints and keep on teaching.

How’s our influence for good? Do others see Jesus living in us? Do they see the joy we have in seeking and serving Him? Do we shrink back at the slightest set-back? We may not know how much influence we’re having, but we do know that it’s right to keep on trying. It might turn out like the young preacher; who knows?



# Distraction

*Author Unknown*

The song leader read the passage that encouraged us to praise the Lord in song and then instructed us to, “pay attention to the words.” Yet... The man sitting two rows in front was staring into space, then looking around the room — never a note sung.

“Pray without ceasing,” Paul instructs in I Thessalonians 5:17 and the gentleman at the front says, “Please bow with me while we pray.” Yet... To the right was a woman making faces at a child, seeking a laugh or smile and to the left another was using her thumbs to quickly send a message on her phone.

Mark 4:24 warns to, “pay attention to what you hear,” which applies to the word of God being spoken during a sermon. Yet... the man behind me broke my concentration by talking to his wife while God’s word was being read and taught.

The book of Nehemiah tells of the Israelites standing when Ezra read from God’s scroll. Yet... while sitting in comfortable, padded pews, the time was being checked on watches and phones, demonstrating disrespect for the holy words.

Jesus commands us to remember Him through the taking of the Lord’s

# Jesus Christ: Man with a Mission

*By Dick Blackford*

Christ’s mission on earth was to seek and save the lost. It would be accomplished by His going to the cross. He said “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to myself. This he said, signifying by what death he would die,” Jn 12:32,33. Further, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him... Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me,” Jn 6:44,45. How are

people drawn to the Lord? By hearing and learning.

When Jesus fed the 5000 he didn’t advertise “All the fish you can eat” to draw crowds so He could teach them. In fact, His disciples wanted to send them away to buy food, which shows no promise of food had been made to entice them, Mk 6:35-44. The next day Jesus rebuked those who followed for the loaves and fishes, Jn 6:26. Instead of feeding them

again, He pointed them to the spiritual bread of life.

Jesus didn't use recreation and entertainment to draw people, nor did His church use these to retain converts. Professional marketers tell us we should use these carnal appeals as motivation. Why is there such an absence of this kind of motivation in Scripture?

In the Bible we learn that the church is the blood-bought body of Christ, Acts 20:28; Col 1:18. Has it become something else? When appeals to the flesh are used we're suggesting God didn't do enough -

that His way of drawing lacks something and we can improve on it. Paul insisted that God had provided the ultimate motivation in offering Jesus.

Why the stable? Why the mockery of justice, the beating and the crown of thorns? Because the Father saw the sinful, pitiful creatures we were - and loved us anyway by sending Jesus to the cross for our sins. Can you see the contrast? If motivation is what you want, it doesn't get any better than this! This is the greatest and only motivation God gave! 

conduct that is seen in some places, it would seem that many people wish that Meeting Houses were built in the way here described.

This Ideal Meeting House should be built in the form of a horseshoe; with the entrance at the toe end and the Pulpit at the part indicated by the joined heels of the shoe. The Chief Attraction of this form of Meeting House would be a very long Back Seat, beginning near one side of the Pulpit and running all the Way around the curved part of the wall to near the Pulpit at the other side. There would, of course, be a break at the Entrance Door. This long Back Seat would need to be fastened securely to the wall, lest anyone should come in late and creep behind it.

There should be provided in the Ideal Meeting House a few Front Seats near the Pulpit for those who still prefer them, and these should be curved so that all may see the Preacher directly before them.

There would thus be a large open space between the Back Seat and the Front Seats. In this space there would be room for many chairs with rubber-tipped feet, so that they could be moved at any angle and to any position without noise. This would permit

latecomers to move to a place that is just right.

Among the advantages of the Long Back Seat would be that all who sit on it could see one another and the Preacher and those who come in at the door without danger of injury to their necks.

But there is one serious difficulty in the plan of the Long Back Seat. It would have only four Seat Ends. And it appears in evidence that there are many who dearly love to sit at the End of the Seat and let four, five, or more people trample over them and their tender feet trying to get a Seat farther in.

To please the many Lovers of Seat Ends, it would be necessary to build Meeting Houses much larger than those needed by our present plans. If the houses were only large enough, all might enjoy the pleasure and distinction of sitting at the End of the Seat.

I see a grave danger if either plan were to be seriously considered. If the Long Back Seat Party should insist on having all the Meeting Houses made in the shape of a horseshoe, and all the Lovers of Seat Ends should insist that the Meeting Houses all be made large enough to have an End Seat for each one, there might be a more serious division in the ranks of Churchgoers than any that

# An Ideal Meeting House

## (a Parable)

*By J. A. Ressler*

As this piece of writing is a parable, it is not to be understood that the ideal is that of everyone, nor that it is a proper ideal, nor

that it is the ideal of the Being who is to be worshiped in the Meeting House, nor even of the writer himself. But, judging from the