

### Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
*Speaker, Robert Emerson*  
Study Sunday 10:00 AM  
Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM  
Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

*"...For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him." —Psalm 103:11*



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### Servants during August:

**Songleader:** Peter (2), Chandler (9), Stanley (16), Larry (23), David (30)

**Reading:** Mike

**Announcements:** Robert

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

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (5), Kris (12), Larry (19), Stanley (26)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Marty (2), Stanley (9), Robert (16), Larry (23), Kris (30)

### 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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## Nehemiah's Prayer

### *Nehemiah 1:5-11*

*By Warren E. Berkley*

As soon as you meet this man, Nehemiah, you discover what may be the most important thing about him: the rich activity of his trust in God illustrated by his prayer in Nehemiah chapter one.

He lived in the capital city of Susa in Persia around 450 B.C. While serving as cupbearer of King Artaxerxes he heard the bad news that the people back in Judah were suffering in the ruins of Jerusalem. Nehemiah's first reaction was not political action, organizing a protest, abandoning his job, or getting drunk.

"As soon as" he heard this, he "sat down and wept and mourned for days." He fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

He prayed: "I beseech You, O

LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will

scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand. O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man," Neh 1:5-11.


Nehemiah knew WHO he was praying to. This was no obligatory remark; "our thoughts and prayers" are with the suffering people of Judah. He spoke to the God he had known all his life, and in addressing God, he shows his personal familiarity with Him. He was praying to the great and awesome God of heaven, with full confidence in His power to hear, to respond and to guide the work that was ahead.

Nehemiah knew the situation wasn't God's fault. He put the

blame on the people (including himself) who "acted very corruptly," in their disobedience to God's commands given through Moses. Nehemiah knew the history of the covenant and was aware of what had gone wrong. Someone said one time, "You might as well tell God the truth when you pray. He knows it before you start praying!"

Nehemiah knew the people belonged to God. He said, "They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand." After this prayer was offered, Nehemiah would recruit, organize and mobilize a huge number of people to rebuild the walls. He went into that project knowing the people didn't belong to him, they belonged to God.

Read Nehemiah chapter one, and learn how to react to bad news. Determine to read Nehemiah's prayer and see the mature faith he brought to that conversation with God. And the dependence on God and devotion to God that governed him after his prayer.

Here was a man who did not act without prayer, but did not pray without acting. 

# Role Models

*By Greg Gwin*

When it comes to sports—we do it. In business—we do it. In almost every field of endeavor, we look for role models. We try to find others who have been successful, and then we imitate them. God's word tells us to do the same thing in spiritual matters.

The best role models are found right in the Scriptures. Jesus is the ultimate example: "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps," 1 Pet 2:21. Other great heroes of faith serve as good role models, too. Paul urged us to be "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ," 1 Cor 11:1. Hebrews chapter eleven is full of examples of faithful men and women who serve as worthy patterns for us to imitate.


Beyond these 'champions' of the Bible, let us suggest that we can also look to our own brethren. In

any church there are faithful, zealous, devoted Christians who are working hard to live for the Lord. They resist temptation, spread the word, encourage others, and generally work tirelessly to do His will. Look to them. Imitate them. Paul encouraged this approach: "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us," Phil 3:17.

We know this method works in the material world. We look for 'winners' and we imitate them. Let's do the same thing when it comes to our most important endeavor and serving God!

Who are your role models? Why?

Have you thanked them?

Do you have a godly character that can serve as a role model to others? 

## *Remember in Prayer*

**Bernice** is back home with her daughter, and doing some better! **Pam** has a sinus infection; and **Dwight** is having breathing troubles (but

unrelated to Covid-19). Please continue to pray for **Lois Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Polly McNatt...**

