

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 2nd Sunday evening
Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

*"Just as a father has compassion
on his children, So the LORD has
compassion on those who fear
Him." —Psalm 103:13*



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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

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The Bible . Examiner

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

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Our Tattling Priorities

By Dan S. Shipley

As someone has wisely noted, "life is governed by esteemed values." It's what men consider important that really counts in the ordering of personal priorities. Obviously, not all consider the same things important. What one views as trivial may be another's treasure, and vice versa. But this much is sure: no man ever treats his own "treasure" as a trivial thing.

On the contrary, one's devotion to his special interests will likely be conspicuously manifest, even when he might wish it otherwise. As Jesus has said, "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," Mt 6:21. Again, "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart," Mt 12:34b. The heart is where the treasure is and the mouth will soon

reveal where the heart is. Our priorities tell on us because we like to tell about them. Sooner or later, the topic of conversation will be centered on our interests—maybe not with the enthusiasm of a golf or fishing "nut", but like ants at a picnic, they'll keep on showing up. Our auditors hear what we are concerned about. What do they hear? Is it ever spiritual subjects? It may be enlightening to see a list of what our friends consider to be our priorities. Chances are, they wouldn't be far off because if our conversations didn't tell on us, our schedules would.

Like our speech, the employment of free time says much about our interests. That's why we always seem to find time for doing what we want and seldom find time for the don't-

wants. Worse, we may even become unconscious to making such distinctions — even to the extent of habitually first doing what we want, then, if necessary, invent excuses for our failures. Mostly, Christians with excuses are just Christians with wrong priorities. Think, for instance, of how Christians could redeem the time, not only by attending Bible studies and worship, but by visiting the sick and weak and teaching the lost. Yet, it is not unusual to hear of those who put in more time watching TV in one or two evenings than on all of these activities put together for a whole week! We ought to be ashamed! ...not for watching TV, but for neglecting the other. Redeeming the time (Eph 5:16) becomes an impossible task without right priorities.

Finally, the use made of financial resources says something about what

we consider important. In fact, some say it says most and loudest. Anyway, like time and tongue, it does tell where the heart is and its use can be a proof of love, 2 Cor 8:24. Certainly, that which we profess to be the most important and urgent cause on earth deserves to be supported accordingly, financially and otherwise.

Remember, our priorities do tell on us. And they always tell the truth! The Lord hears what they say. The brethren hear. So does the world. The real question is, do we? If so, we may conclude that changes are needed. Not superficial changes that force external “improvement”, but the kind that get to the heart of the matter—the kind that come from facing up to our true condition and real needs and make us see the need for the Lord and seeking Him FIRST.

—via *Plain Talk*, September 1976 

Painless Religion

By Dan S. Shipley

The unpleasant hurting sensation sometimes experienced in the physical body can have beneficial effects. Without the symptoms of chest or stomach pains, for instance, one may be unaware of serious ailments needing immediate attention. The prospects of a comfortable coronary or a painless appendicitis may sound appealing, but the end thereof could well be death. Physical hurting is not only an informer, it is also a reminder and

protector. (Even the sore toe can convey an attention getting message by hurt saying, “Hey! Remember to take care of me!”) The point is, hurt is a necessary and often helpful part of our physical existence.

Furthermore, I’m not so sure that hurt doesn’t occupy a somewhat similar role in the spiritual realm as well. Take the hurt of Godly sorrow, for instance. Without it repentance is impossible for “godly sorrow

produces ...repentance,” 2 Cor 7:10. You can see it in the repentance of the Pentecostians who were “pierced to the heart,” Acts 2:37. I think we see it in Peter who, in realizing his sin against Jesus, “went out, and wept bitterly,” Mt 26:75. Who are the blessed mourners of Mt 5:4, if not those who are hurt by sin? Such hurt is actually an essential part of gaining spiritual health. But, as with the physical body, there are different kinds of hurting.

Another sort is that which comes with the sting of rebuke. Whether administered publicly or privately, there are times when the rod of verbal chastisement is necessary. Paul used it with Peter and threatened more of it with the Corinthians, Gal 2:11; 1 Cor 4:21. Timothy is told to use it, 1 Tim 4:2.

Actually, it involves a double hurt in that it affects the rebuker as well. Paul was sorry for having to make the Corinthians sorry, 1 Cor 7:8, though it later brought joy. No doubt, their putting away the fornicator from among them was a painful experience too, but the church could not be healthy without it.

Since hurt, therefore, is so vitally related to spiritual health, why do so

many seem so set on taking all the hurt out of religion? Why the demand for an ouchless religion? Many appear obsessed with the fear that someone may get their feelings hurt! Others want to spare themselves the pain and unpleasantness of saying what needs to be said to lost souls (preachers and elders included). Could it be that we have become more concerned about removing the hurt than about removing the sin? That is something like a doctor administering a strong pain-killer for severe stomach pains without treating what caused the pains. Obviously, he has not removed the problem; only the patient’s awareness of it. Neither do we remove the problem by removing the pain. True, we have manufactured lots of “tranquilizers” in our quest for a painless religion. Many, though dying in sin, have been made to feel good under the sedation of false teaching, good intentions and excuses. The pain may be gone, but not the problem.

Speaking the truth in love is good medicine—good for those who speak it and hear it—and hurt!

—via *Plain Talk*, December 1976 

Remember in Prayer

The **Vilander’s** plan to be out of town until Tuesday, 8/24, and would appreciate your prayers. Always remember our loved ones that cannot

meet with us, including **Lois Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Polly McNatt, and Bernice Osburn.** 