#### 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

"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

—2 Timothy 2:2



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**Servants during September:** 

Songleader: Peter (6), Stanley (13),

Larry (20), David (27)

**Reading:** Larry

**Announcements:** Stanley

Table: Robert, Mike, Peter, Marty

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (2), Stanley (9), Kris (16), Larry (23),

Stanley (30)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

Marty (6), Stanley (13), Robert

(20), Larry (27)

### **Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road Elkmont, AL 35620



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## The Need for

# Distinctive Preaching

By Jim Deason

The role of the teacher is to hold back nothing profitable, but to teach the whole purpose of God, Acts 20:20, 27. That is the key to faithfully fulfilling the work of an elder or evangelist, i.e., that we hold back nothing that is profitable to the people. Preaching on the love of God is not going to help the young women of the congregation when they fail to hear a sermon directed toward their immodesty. Preaching on grace is good, but not if you fail to preach on folks frequently how absent themselves from worship in favor of their favorite sports or recreational activity. Preaching on mercy is wonderful, but sometimes people need to hear a lesson on social drinking or dancing (prom). Forgiveness is a grand theme, but sometimes brethren need to be

encroaching warned of false doctrines and practices. I believe there is a justifiable cause for concern today, not just because of what is preached from some pulpits, but even more because of what is not being preached! One of my heroes in the faith once observed, "If we don't preach on certain subjects, it won't be long before we can't preach on those subjects because people will not put up with it." He was right and, in my opinion, we are seeing the fruit of that in our time. Again, the key to faithfully fulfilling the work of an elder or evangelist is to hold back nothing that is profitable. It is not always easy to properly assess and preach to the needs of the people, but by all means do it!

The "old Jerusalem gospel" has a distinctive ring about it. It is a message flooded with Scripture and practical application. It is not always

popular, but it is always right when presented with the best interest of the hearers in your heart and on your lips, Eph.4:15.

# When the Fire Flickers

By Robert F. Turner

Conversations with students and young preachers frequently reveal discouragement with what they find in many churches. "These people couldn't care less—they are not on fire for the Lord's work."

My first thought is "How long have you cared—when did you catch fire?" The newly enthused likely fall into three groups: (1) new converts (perhaps starry-eyed, but we need their freshness as much as they need our experience); (2) new preachers, elders, deacons, teachers, etc., where new responsibility has awakened eyes to see brethren in a different light; and, (3) brethren shaken out of complacency by the influence of those "faithful few" who plug on regardless of what others do.

The new converts may "burn out" or line up with the majority, as many of them do; the new teacher may quit in frustration, and the young preacher "move on" looking for Utopia. But none will have served his Lord with honor. The cause of Christ depends on those who stay on fire, lighting others; whose flame is not the flaring rocket of a celebration, but the glow

and warmth of the home hearth—feeding the family, welcoming strangers. These make the converts, shake the complacent, and with their help continue the work others quit in disgust.

One can be realistic without being a pessimist: can work with the status quo without accepting it as final. We must recognize our problems in order to work on them. Saying the church consists of imperfect people is another way of saying we have a job to do—on ourselves, and others.

The teacher must not quit because the pupils lack interest. It is his job to create interest in the subject matter. The zealous young preacher, with maturity enough to control himself and put his talents to work, is just what that dead church needs. By example we can teach those new converts that all of us are but striving for perfection. There are yet "seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal," Rom 11:4; and the Lord is counting on us to find them and join hands with them, to salt and light the world in which we live.

—Via **Plain Talk**, August 1983 🕮

## One Preacher Advises Another

By Greg Gwin

An older preacher was giving some advice and counsel to a younger one. His own preaching work had been marred by several incidents where folks had rejected his teaching, opposed him publicly, and caused him a fair amount of grief and hardship. Still, though, he continued to proclaim the truth, and he encouraged his young friend to do the same.

He warned the young man that there would be times when his preaching would not be well received. People would not like to hear "hard" preaching. They would prefer to listen to things that were more pleasant and less demanding. Teachers that played to their whims and fancies would be more popular. More "positive" and less "negative" preaching would be their wish, and they would insist that it be so.

But despite all this, the older preacher urged the younger one to press on with his work. It wouldn't always be easy, but it was ultimately important.

Who were these two preachers? Where and when was this advice given from the older to the younger? It could have been almost anywhere and anytime, but we have reference to the encouragement penned by the apostle Paul to the evangelist Timothy. Some of the final words Paul ever wrote were these:

"...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry," 2 Tim 4:2-5.

### » Remember in Prayer «

**Polly** may have had another stroke, and is not doing well; **Betty** is still feeling very unwell; **Buddy** plans to see a kidney specialist soon; **Shane's** father, **Mickey Bates**, is about the same, undergoing daily dialysis; **Joyce** is not feeling well, and was sent to get a chest x-ray.

**Bernice** is doing better, and at her own home, cared for by family—not her

daughter's, as reported earlier; and Jeremy and Lauren McNatt's baby, Andrew Davis, came early (8/29); he is in NICU, but doing well!

Always remember our loved ones that cannot meet with us, including Lois Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice.