

**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

*"...do you not know that all of us  
 who have been baptized into Christ  
 Jesus have been baptized into His  
 death?" —Romans 6:3*



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**Servants during September:**

**Songleader:** Peter (4), Stanley (11),  
 Larry (18), David (25)

**Reading:** Robert

**Announcements:** Larry

**Table:** Stanley, David, Peter, Mike

**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (7), Larry  
 (14), Stanley (21), Kris (28)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Kris  
 (4), Marty (11), Stanley (18),  
 Robert (25)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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# The Bible . Examiner

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

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## Christians In "Other Churches"

*By Robert F. Turner*

In years past one of "our" preachers would take this as a subject, and "tear the hide off'n" denominationalism. He would point out that "the church" is the body of Christ, Eph 1:22,23; the bride of Christ, 2 Cor 11:1,2; the kingdom of Christ, Col 1:13, Mt 16:18-19; etc.; and that Christ has but one body, bride, kingdom. He would point out that the way into Christ—"putting on" Christ—is the way into the body, Gal 3:26,27, 1 Cor 12:12,13, Rom 6:3,4, etc.; hence, only those who walk this way are "in Christ" and all who walk this way are added to the same body, family, kingdom, etc. That leaves no place for Christians in "other churches"!!

You know—I think he was right about it!! That's the way it is!! But

there were false conclusions drawn in the early days, even as now. Some missed the figurative nature of the above expressions; tending to equate Christ's church with some imperfect "party"—and truth with the party practices; and perhaps even elevate the "plan" and the "Church of Christ" party above the Lord Himself. The preachers were not wholly to be blamed. Simple points were made for simple people, some of whom refused to grow up. It happens today.

Today we have liberal thinkers who say there are Christians in "other churches." They discount plain Bible teaching regarding baptism, the worship, etc., and glorify the so-called "pure heart" of subjective thinkers. These liberals see sectarianism among the saints (expressed in

paragraph above) as justification for concluding that no “true” or “sound” church of the Lord exists today. They ridicule the idea of a “sound” functioning church.

Others, bowing to popular demands, say there are Christians in “other churches.” Hidden in the fine print is the explanation that these are the once faithful saints who have gone astray; and they fail to stress what God says about those who deny the Lord that bought them, 2 Pet 2:1ff. The liberals grasp this “middle” (?) position as sop of encouragement.

It does seem we could learn something by all of this. Faithful gospel preachers cannot cease to proclaim the points made in first paragraph because someone understands them in a sectarian way. It is their obligation to instruct—enlighten. The scriptures do say there

is one body, Eph 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:12,13. Now if hearers color this with sectarian conceptions it becomes our duty to erase the color—not throw out the basic teaching.

If brethren have “institutionalized” the church, and “sectarianized” the church of Christ; we must attack the error—distinguish between so-called “Church of Christ” doctrine and objective scriptural teaching. We gravely blunder when we leave the impression that the subjective philosophy, social gospel, emotion pricked sectarian is a “Christian” in the true sense of the word, and heaven bound. The Bible doesn’t teach it.

Honest, truth-seeking pilgrims in and out of Christ’s church are hungry for the bread of life, and welcome humble efforts to save their souls.

—via **Plain Truth**, Mar 1986. 

ability as an advantage. Whatever we think we need to do, we’d rather be able to do it than not be able. We cringe at the thought of personal insufficiency, of coming up short. But in our relationship to God and in our work in His kingdom, there is a sense in which our own personal strength can be a disadvantage. “Natural strength is often as great a handicap as natural weakness,” (Hannah Hurnard).

Normally, we think of our own

Whenever there is something that we can do and we know that we can do it, we are tempted to believe that our strength is our own: this is our ability, we have learned how to do this thing, and so forth. We begin to feel independent and self-sufficient, and our need for God recedes into the background. It is strange but true, the more we think of the things God has made us able to do, the less we pay attention to the God who made us able to do them.

To Paul, God said, “My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Paul, like all of us, probably enjoyed days when he felt adequate and sufficient to do what had to be done. But in truth, God could do a good deal more with Paul on the other days—when Paul felt weak rather than strong. So God gave Paul a “thorn in the flesh” to multiply the number of days when he would feel weak. Those would be the days when he was most conscious of his dependence on God’s help and therefore the days of his

greatest usefulness.

When a “thorn in the flesh” makes its painful appearance in our own lives, our natural response is to want it to go away as quickly as possible. Yet if it is God’s will for us to continue to deal with it, our attitude needs to be the same as Paul’s: “I take pleasure in infirmities... For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

“God uses chronic pain and weakness, along with other afflictions, as his chisel for sculpting our lives. Felt weakness deepens our dependence on Christ for strength each day. The weaker we feel, the harder we lean. And the harder we lean, the stronger we grow spiritually, even while our bodies waste away. To live with your “thorn” uncomplainingly—that is, sweet, patient, and free in heart to love and help others, even though every day you feel weak—is true sanctification,” (J. I. Packer).

—via **Reaching Forward**, Nov 16, 2009 

# When Strength is a Disadvantage

By Gary Henry

“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong,” 2 Cor 12:9,10.

*He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.*

## Remember in Prayer

It has been a hard week. Our sister, **Bernice Osburn**, passed peacefully from this life early Wed, 10/14. **Donise’s cousin Rodney**, a faithful brother in the Lord, had Covid-19 and pneumonia, as well as diabetes, and passed away Thur, 10/15, following a stroke.

**Pam** had tested positive for Covid-19, and is doing better—for which we thank God. **Jeremy** and **Lauren’s baby (Stanley** and **Alice’s grandbaby)** has come home! They will face challenges in

the coming years because Andrew has been diagnosed with Down syndrome; but we are confident that God will continue to bless them as they seek Him and His will!

Please keep praying for **Lily Malone**, who had a bone marrow transplant; and let’s not forget those that cannot meet with us, including **Lois Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim** and **Dot Hice**, and **Polly McNatt**. 