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

"...I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."

—1 Timothy 2:1,2 (...and this is without regard to party.)

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Servants during November:

Songleader: Peter (1), Stanley (8), Larry (15), David (21), Peter (28)

Reading: David

Announcements: Marty

Table: Larry, Mike, Robert, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (4), Stanley (11), Kris (18), Larry (25) Snow Blowing (week starting):

Larry (1), Kris (8), Marty (15), Stanley (21), Robert (28)

...just kidding.

Hays Mill church of Christ

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Volume 3

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Number 29

Did you 'Repent in the Aisle'?

By Robert F. Turner

Many years ago while teaching a Bible class I asked a young lady the meaning of "repent." Her immediate answer was, "Oh, that's what people do in the aisle." Then, seeing my puzzled expression, she continued: "You believe in the seat, repent in the aisle, confess at the front, and are baptized in the baptistery."

Very neat, very neat indeed! And I suspect that there are a surprising number of adults who get little beyond this childish conception of the "plan of salvation." We "repent in the aisle!" Abject sorrow for sin, that humbles; brings us trembling before our God; shakes our complacency and puts steel in our determination to sin no more, is virtually unknown.

If tears are shed this is a rarity and may often be traced to nervous embarrassment or a prolonged emotional appeal on the part of the preacher. Some speakers seem to fear any emotional appeal, while others

seek to stimulate a synthetic downpour by tactics of mass psychology. What has become of genuine, soulsearching conviction that changes a whole life? Well, the necessary ingredients are still with us, and but await recognition and proper use.

Sin is rampant, and if repentance is rare it is not for lack of reason. But sin must be made apparent to the sinner. Platitudes and generalities soothe the flesh—they do not strike the heart. When men "come to themselves", are "pricked in their heart", then they may repent, Lk 15:17; Acts 2:37,38. Paul feared lest a penitent man be "swallowed up with overmuch sorrow," 2 Cor 2:7. Does this fit our man "in the aisle"?

"Ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner"—a portion of 2 Cor 7:8-11. Read these verses carefully, for they distinguish between "sorry I got caught" and the humbling, self-

abasing experience of one who realizes his unworthiness in the presence of God. Such a feeling fills with care, and our very being revolts against our former manner of life—the sin, of which we are now so ashamed.

"Unclean! Unclean!" we cry; and turn with joyous gratefulness to the Savior's offer of forgiveness.

Paul taught "repentance toward God" as well as "faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ," Acts 20:21. All sin is against God, Lk 15:18, i.e., the creature wrongs the Creator when sin is committed; and since God alone can forgive, it is fitting that the creature present a contrite spirit to

the Throne. The old-time mourner's bench was based on Calvinistic errors too space-consuming to be discussed here; but I sometimes wonder if we may not have "run past Jerusalem" in our casual attitude toward repentance.

Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," Lk 13:3. Repent or perish—it is an ultimatum of Almighty God, an awesome thing. But the sin-burdened soul who truly repents sees more: "Repent, and be baptized... for the remission of sins," Acts 2:38. Christ lifts the burden of those who obey Him, and mourning turns to thanksgiving.

–via Plain Talk, December, 1964 🕮

Why Saints Assemble

By Robert F. Turner

"Not forsaking tile assembling of ourselves together—" Heb. 10:25 is a clear statement of God's will in the matter; and some babes in Christ may "go to church" compelled by fear of God's wrath. This is a legitimate motive, albeit one that is less needed by the more mature Christian. The collective action of saints, with its attendant assemblings, is far more than a self-justifying end. It grows out of the basic character of saints, and their God-appointed purposes.

Early Christians were "together" "with one accord," Acts 2:44-46. A closeness, and singleness of purpose

such as theirs brought them together physically, just as it will bring true Christians together today. They gravitated toward one-another for prayer as fishermen gather to discuss lures; they had a common interest and object of worship.

They loved the truth, and their "delight" was in the law of the Lord, Mt 5:6; Psa 1:2. When people are hungry, they do not have to be urged to go where there is food; nor do they eat "because of a sense of duty."

Faithful Christians had great respect and veneration for Jesus Christ, 1 Cor 11:23ff; hence,

welcomed opportunity to participate in the memorial supper. Their hearts were warmed and faith renewed as they worshipped "in remembrance of" Christ.

Each one's concern for his own spiritual welfare, as well as that of fellow Christians, was reflected in the assembling. In Heb 10:23-25 note how "let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering" is related to their gathering together.

And because "every man according to his ability, determined—" the making of a common treasury brought them together, Acts 11:29; 1 Cor 16:1-3. A pooled fund is the means of exchange by which a plurality of saints act as one to do God's will. Some early churches were so anxious to do God's work they begged Paul to take their offering, 2 Cor 8:4. The next verse explains this eagerness: they had given themselves to the Lord.

Saints today assemble for these same reasons. I do not refer to those

who occasionally "attend" worship; I mean those who worship with regularity, the faithful few or many.

The indifferent and the hypocrites make excuses; perhaps even try to make some "logical" argument, as, "I can worship God, being alone." Of course what one could do, being alone, is hardly the question. The hypocrite is seldom alone (i.e., there are other saints within reach) and if one were alone there is little reason to believe he would worship God. Such people usually compound their wrong by lying—to others, to themselves, and to God.

If you are a "oncer" (once-a-week) or worse, allow yourself a moment of truly honest self-inspection, Can you believe that one who loves his brethren because they are brethren, who delights in Bible study, has deep respect for the Lord's Supper, and is truly concerned for God's work and his own soul, would "do as you do"??

–via Plain Talk, June, 1964 🕮

Shane has prepared a new directory for us... PLEASE TAKE ONE!

a Remember in Prayer s

Shirley tested positive for the virus following Dwight, and is feeling better; Shane felt ill last Sunday, so neither she nor Larry met with us last week, but thankfully tested negative for Covid-19!

Chessie Harwell is now bedridden—please pray for both her and David.

Betty's uncle **Thurston Dison** passed away last week.

Please continue to pray for those that cannot meet with us, including Lois Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Polly McNatt.