

**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 LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? ...Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD."

—Psalm 27:1,14



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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)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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# The Bible . Examiner

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

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# A Prayer for Unity

*By Sean P. Cavender*

In John 17, just before Jesus was betrayed by one of His own disciples, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Matthew, Mark, and Luke record Jesus's pleadings to let the cup of suffering pass from the Him; the apostle John records an entirely different prayer by our Savior. The entire chapter is devoted to Christ's prayer. It was not a prayer for the pain Jesus was going to endure in the crucifixion. Instead, He prayed for us, all believers. In what is sometimes called the "High Priestly Prayer," Jesus prayed on behalf of all who were to follow the word of God. One of the petitions that Jesus made to His Father was that all who believe in Him might be unified in the

truth. "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth...that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me,"

Jn 17:17,21, ESV.

Jesus identifies several things as essential for unity and oneness. He outlines a path for unity, even in darkness and despair. Just moments before He was betrayed and handed over to be crucified, in the hour of His greatest trial, Jesus prayed for the unity of believers.

So, what is essential for unity?

***Learn the value of service and obedience***

Jesus came to earth to do His

Father's will. He said, "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do," Jn 17:4. He would say that He revealed the name of the Father to the world, Jn 17:6. Jesus did not come to earth to demand glory be given to Him; instead, He came to point others to glorify the Father! Jesus was an example of service to God and to the world. Are we doing all that we can to obey God and to glorify Him? Our actions, choices, and thoughts should be in subjection to the will of God. By those actions, choices, and thoughts, we should be capable of bringing others to realize the greatness of God and help others see that they should be serving God. For unity to be achieved, we must first serve like Jesus did. We must glorify God and help others see how they can know the God of heaven, too.

### ***Unity requires protecting what we have***

Jesus said that He had not lost any that had been given to Him, except the son of perdition, Jn 17:12. However, the emphasis Jesus wants to draw attention to is the diligent work of guarding what He had been given stewardship over. God sent Jesus to the world to teach people about Himself; Jesus faithfully did as God had sent

Him to do. That was not a task Jesus took lightly. Jesus wanted to protect all that He had been able to bring to God. He actively guarded them! The Lord knew Satan, the evil one, was waiting to devour His flock, Jn 17:15; 1 Pet 5:8. Unity is something that must be maintained and we must realize the stakes are high and very real! The Lord did not underestimate the power of the devil and Satan's ability to destroy the work of God and Christ. One was lost—Judas. We must be aware of the dangers and traps the devil lays for us; he is crafty and will try to destroy the Lord's people. Churches must learn from Jesus—protect the flock from those who may come in, trying to lead people astray, Acts 20:28.

### ***Keep the world out***


Unity is based on a relationship with God and Christ, not with the world. Christ was not of the world, so neither should His disciples be of the world. "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world," Jn 17:16. Jesus overcame the temptations by the devil, as recorded in Matthew 4 and Luke 4. The devil rules the world, Jn 14:30. Our Lord and Savior overcame the devil and his tests to get Christ to fail. Disciples of Christ should not maintain a relationship with the world. We are in the world, but we

do not belong to the world, Jn 17:15. Our fellowship is not with the world, instead, we should be in God and Christ!

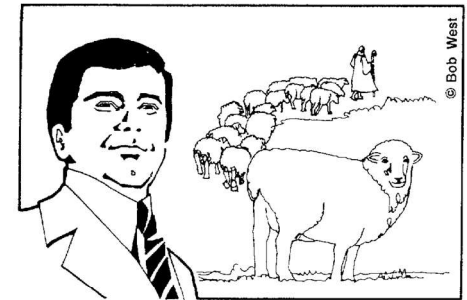
"That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me," Jn 17:21.

John 17 and the prayer of Jesus are singular in focus—He is intent on the unity of believers. Those who are sanctified and saved by the word of truth, the gospel, are meant to have unity with one another and with God Himself. While unity requires work and effort to obtain and maintain, it was the goal of Christ and should be the goal of every Christian. Satan will take opportunity to destroy our unity, we must persevere. Even through adversity,

unity can be achieved! Our Lord and Savior longed for unity of every believer, so all believers could be with Him for eternity, Jn 17:3,24. Unity is the means by which we may dwell with God for all eternity. Do not lose sight of Christ's prayer and purpose for the unity of all believers!

—via *Meditate on These Things*,  
September, 2018 

### **THE EVANGELIST**



*A lot of Christians know the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm better than they know the Good Shepherd.*

**The Bible does not need to be re-written,  
*but re-read.***

## *Remember in Prayer*

**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.** 