

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

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven,”

— Matthew 5:14

**Servants during April:**

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

Reading: David

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike B, Larry, Mike M, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Bill Hall! (7), Kris (14),

Larry (21), Stanley (28)

Lawn Mowing: Stanley (4), Robert (11),

Larry (18), Kris (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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To Be, or Not to Be... Seen!

By Robert F. Turner

Did Jesus contradict himself in the Sermon on the Mount? He said, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven,” Mt 5:14,16. But later he said, “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven,” Mt 6:1ff.

“To be seen of men” indicates a self-glorifying motive; doing things with no genuine desire to serve God or other men. This is labeled exactly what it is; i.e., hypocrisy. By such we deceive ourselves most often; perhaps a few others; but never fool God. Hypocrisy is not true light in the first place. It has no heavenly reward; only praise of deceived men.

Regarding the first verses, true light will shine—that is its nature. If we will concentrate on being true lights rather than on being seen, the light will make known its presence. It will not be hidden unless we follow a policy of obscuration.

But why would anyone want to hide his light? A few years back it may have been fear of being called a “square.” Now it may be a desire to be thought “free” or “uninhibited.” But light-hiding usually means we are ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and fear the unpleasant consequences that may come to those who defend and live its principles.

Cowards can find plausible excuses for using the “bushel.” They “show a brotherly deference” to prejudice—a condescending attitude, less than honest. They wish to “gradually accustom” men

to their new idea. They are lovers of “peace” (where there is no peace). I remember one fellow saying that John lost his head because he lost his head—he failed to use tact and diplomacy. But John’s light shone, and continues to shine on us.

“Let your light shine” means we must live for Christ in open,


Zeal for Christ in the Spirit of Christ

By Rick Liggin

“And it came about, when the days were approaching for His ascension, that He resolutely set His face to go to Jerusalem; and He sent messengers on ahead of Him. And they went, and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make arrangements for Him. And they did not receive Him, because He was journeying with His face toward Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, ‘Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?’ But He turned and rebuked them, and said, ‘You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them,’” Lk 9:51-56.

In commenting on this text, G. Campbell Morgan made a profound

unashamed fashion. We must “reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” We must be primarily interested in pleasing the Lord, not in what men see or think of us.

—Via Plain Talk, v13 n2, April 1976 

observation; he said, “It is possible to be zealous for the honor of God in a spirit which puts us out of fellowship with God,” (The Gospel According To Luke, p. 132). This statement seems to exactly describe the mistake of James and John on this occasion. Their deep sense of loyalty and respect for Jesus caused them to want to defend Him in the presence of those who did not share their respect.

Their loyalty, by itself, was not a bad thing. In fact, it was a good thing—and quite admirable. But the way in which they wanted to show their loyalty proved that they had not yet imbibed enough of the spirit of Christ. Their response was totally out of character with His life and (saving) mission. Instead of trying to save the enemies of Jesus, James

and John wanted to kill them—with fire from heaven! Here was zeal, for sure, but zeal in a wrong spirit.


This same thing happens to us today when we find ourselves despising the enemies of God—hating the sinner, rather than just hating the sin. Oh, we pay lip service to the fact that we only hate the sin, but our attitude, at times, subtly suggests otherwise. We tend to look down our noses at those whose lives are messed up by sin, thinking, “He’s just getting what he deserves.” Our attitude, even as we try to tell him about his need to repent, is, “You’re going to hell and I’m kind of glad of it!”

This wrong spirit also manifests itself in the way some of us (especially in writing) defend truth against error taught by denominational preachers—or even by our own brethren. I find myself, at times, in agreement with the point of truth being defended, but completely opposed to and even embarrassed by the spirit manifested in the one defending the truth. Instead of trying to correct those in opposition to truth with

kindness and gentleness, in genuine hope that God will “grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of truth,” 2 Tim 2:24-26, we seem to be more interested in being quarrelsome and stirring up strife.

When such an attitude finds place in our hearts it proves that we still have a carnal spirit—despite our zeal for Christ. It proves that, despite our loyalty to Jesus, we still have not yet imbibed enough of His spirit. Such actions and attitudes are totally out of character with that of our Lord’s. And that carnal spirit, though filled with a loyalty to Him, will cause us to be separated from God.

Shall we give up our loyalty to Christ and compromise the truth? Never! Should we continue to zealously defend Jesus? Absolutely! But let’s make sure that our zeal is tempered by His godly spirit! Let’s not be zealous for God in a way that puts us out of fellowship with Him. No one wins when that happens—except maybe the devil.

Via *Think on These Things*, October-November-December, 2002. 

Remember in Prayer

Joyce received good news from her PET scan last week; her cancer is shrinking! We thank God for His blessings on her behalf! Let’s continue

to pray for God’s will in this, as well as to pray for **Madelene Britnell**, **Carolyn Dennis**, and **Tim and Dot Hice**. 