

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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“Like newborn babies,
 long for the pure milk
 of the word, so that by
 it you may grow in
 respect to salvation,”

— 1 Peter 2:2

**Servants during May/June:**

Songleader: Larry (2), David (9), Peter (16), Stanley (23), Larry (30), David (6/6)

Reading: Stanley; Mike B (6/6)

Announcements: Larry; Robert (6/6)

Table: David, Peter, Marty, Robert; Larry, Mike M, Marty, Stanley (6/6)

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (5), Larry (12), Stanley (19), Kris (26), Larry (6/2)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

Marty(2), Stanley (9), Robert (16), Larry (23), Kris (30), Marty (6/6)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Restoring to Faithfulness

By Robert F. Turner

When members are lax in attendance of services, what are the best means of restoring them to faithfulness?

I could reply briefly by saying, “Convert them to Christ!” using genuine personal interest in their souls, living godly examples before them, and teach them God’s word.

But back of much “forsaking the assembling of ourselves” is misunderstanding of the nature of such. Some seem to think the “services” are a sort of “roll call,” satisfied by one’s bodily presence. We may further the misconception by urging them to “be faithful to the church,” when “faithfulness to Christ” is needed. Here are five things (not necessarily in order of importance) that bring brethren together. Teaching them these things is a part of the converting process—the “all that I commanded you,” that must be taught following baptism, Mt 28:20. It will not be hard to do this **IF** they were originally taught to put Christ absolutely first in their lives.

TRUE SAINTS ARE OF ONE ACCORD.

They have so much in common, such singleness of purpose, they are drawn together by mutual consent. In Acts 2:42 “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” V44, “all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;” and in V46, “Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple.” Then, in Acts 4:32, “The congregation... were of one heart and one soul.”

BEING ESPOUSED TO CHRIST, WE ARE FAITHFUL TO HIM, PUT HIM FIRST.

Paul said, “I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin,” 2 Cor 11:2. We love Him more than father, mother, or life, Mt 10:37-39, and serve Him accordingly. It was in order to “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering” that the Hebrew writer said, “not forsaking our own assembling together,” Heb 10:23-25, and concluded, “if we go on sinning willfully... there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,” V26.

CHRISTIANS LOVE THE TRUTH. Like David of old, their “delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law [they] meditate day and night,” Psa 1:2. Christians “long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it [they] may grow in respect to salvation,” 1 Pet 2:2.

THEY VENERATE THE CHRIST, AND “SHOW HIS DEATH” UNTIL HE COMES AGAIN. Our Lord has given us a memorial to observe “in remembrance of” Him. “As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes,” 1 Cor 11:23ff. Saints follow

apostolic example and do this “on the first day of the week,” Acts 20:7, because they love the Lord.

CHRISTIANS WORK TOGETHER, AS A TEAM, ACCORDING TO APOSTOLIC EXAMPLE. Using the inspired word as their only guide, they pool their funds to maintain their own unit, Acts 4:34f, to assist needy saints in other congregations, 1 Cor 16:1-3, and to preach the word, Phil 4:15,16. They edified one another, 1 Cor 14:12f; and true saints faithfully do the same today.

—via Plain Talk, Jan 1973 

Why Doesn't the Local Church Contribute to Businesses that Help People?

By Buddy Payne

The church we read about in the Bible belongs to God and was planned by Him before the creation of the world, Eph 3:8-11. It was to make known the wisdom of God, Eph 3:10. It was built by Jesus Christ, our Lord, Mt 16:18, who is its foundation, 1 Cor 3:11, and was purchased by His precious blood, Acts 20:28.

When God raised Christ from the dead, He gave Him all authority in heaven and on earth, Mt 28:18 and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is described as His body, Eph 1:20-23.

Jesus Christ commissioned His apostles to take His message to the whole world, Mt 28:18-20. He gave them the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth, Jn 16:13, and reveal to them the things He wanted us to know, Eph 3:1-6. His apostles and prophets spoke and wrote what God revealed to them for our

benefit, 2 Peter 3:1,2, including how we should conduct ourselves in His church, 1 Tim 3:15. Inspired letters were written to local congregations (Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Colossae, Thessalonica, etc.) and to individuals (Timothy, Titus, and Philemon) instructing us in what He would have us to do individually and congregationally.

All of these points show the importance and value God places on His church and the emphasis He places on carrying out His will and purposes in His church. Thus, whatever we do in His church we should do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, or by His authority, Col 3:17.

From reading the New Testament we learn that local congregations carried out the following functions related to our subject at hand:

They sent out and supported preachers: Acts 13:1-3; Phil 4:15-18; 2 Cor 11:8.

They equipped Christians for the work of serving and speaking the truth in love: Eph 4:11-16.

They cared for needy Christians both in their local congregations and in other places: Acts 6:1-7; Rom 15:25-28; 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8:1-15. God made a difference between individual and church responsibility in this matter, 1 Tim 5:3-16.


God’s design of His church was sufficient for local congregations to carry out His will completely in these matters. Nowhere do we find authority from our Head for the church to build and/or maintain separate organizations/businesses to carry out the work that the Lord gave the church to do—whether it be a missionary society to carry out the work of sending out preachers, a college to carry out the work of equipping Christians for the work of serving and speaking the truth in love, or a benevolent organization (hospital, orphans’ home, etc.) to carry out the work of caring for needy Christians.

If we are to speak “as one who is speaking the utterances of God... so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,” 1 Pet 4:11, we will preach and practice what God authorized in our local congregations. Local congregations will collect money by contributions of the Christians there and use that money to support preachers, to equip Christians for godly service and to help needy Christians. They will use that money in

the local congregation for the purposes God ordained, or send it directly to the preachers or to the congregations where there are needy Christians. That is the pattern seen in the passages cited above and thus we know that is pleasing to God Who designed His church.

Individual Christians or groups of Christians are certainly at liberty to establish businesses, profit or non-profit, which do good things (grocery stores, hospitals, colleges, benevolent homes). There were masters (employers/owners of servants) who were Christians whose activities were regulated by God’s principles in Scripture, Eph 6:9; Col 4:1; 1 Tim 6:1,2.

However, you will search in vain for the authority from God for the church of our Lord Jesus Christ to establish or maintain a business with its contributions. There is as much authority for the church to make a contribution to a grocery store because it provides food for hungry people as there is for it to make a contribution to a hospital because it provides medical care for sick people. Local congregations provided food for needy Christians, but they did not enter into the “food business.”

God established the purposes for His church before the creation of the world. He revealed them to us in His Word. Let us reverence Him by honoring and fulfilling those purposes in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord! 

Remember in Prayer

Joyce has been suffering a good deal of facial pain due to her cancer medication; **Buddy** continues to deal with excess fluid retention, although his medication is helping.

Please also pray for **Kris and Cindy’s**

friend, Christy Bennett; she is now home, and undergoing therapy.

Let’s not forget our brethren **Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, and Tim and Dot Hice.** 