

**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

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

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“...Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

— Matthew 19:14

**Servants during June:**

**Songleader:** David (6), Peter (13), Stanley (20), Larry (27)

**Reading:** Mike B

**Announcements:** Robert

**Table:** Larry, Mike M, Marty, Stanley

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (2), Stanley (9), Kris (16), Larry (23), Stanley (30)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Marty(6), Stanley (13), Robert (30), Larry (27)

**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 You Who Bring Small Children to Meet With the Church

*Author Unknown... but greatly appreciated.*

There you are sitting in worship or Bible study. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do—you pick them up. And before a watching audience, you make the march out of the auditorium. All the while, you're a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, “There's no point in coming to meet with the church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my child.”

I want you—you mothers and fathers—to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The

little elderly woman who often feels alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brighten her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes—if but for a moment—her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you—a young family—in the assembly, and you don't miss any gathering. Like

clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

Then there's everybody else. Some people will honestly become frustrated by noisy children in church. They have this warped idea that reverence includes absolute silence. It doesn't. When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked them, Mt 19:13-15, but Jesus rebuked His disciples. He said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." The Greek term translated "children" in Matthew and Mark is paidon. The root of the word "pedagogue" is from this word. It defined children of either an infant state, or more particularly, it was with reference to those who were half-

grown and could be either males or females.

When Luke wrote his account of this narrative, he used the word brephos; which means "infants." Luke wasn't contradicting Matthew and Mark's account, because Luke wrote that they brought the infants "also," Lk 18:15-17. They would have squirmed, maybe even cried. This was likely why the disciples rebuked the parents; as well as that they might have thought that the children were too young to understand the blessing Christ pronounced over them.

Bring your children to meet with the church. There is an old saying that has a lot of truth in it: "If you don't hear crying, the church is dying!" As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should.



# Hearing One's Echo

*By Robert Turner*

Many preachers are amazed at what some hearers "get" from their effort. It is often foreign to their intent, and sometimes defies explanation. I said, "The Holy Spirit dwells in us, in the same way the Father and Son dwell in us;" and a listener thought I said there was no Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Godhead. Or, we present a lesson on the nature and make-up of the church; and someone thinks this is a new and

startling way to say the church is unimportant. A preacher must constantly seek to improve on his means of conveying ideas, but the hearers could also do with a bit of self-examination.

We "hear" through the mechanics of the ear; but our understanding, or the mental impression we "get" may be greatly influenced by previous

experiences which tend to "classify" and interpret the sermon. Alabama saints "hear" with their own sectional background, which is vastly different from that of the west coast cities. A lesson welcomed in Texas as a warning against the encroachment of institutional influence may seem too "old line Sommerism" in Missouri or Ohio. Older people, especially in the rural south, "hear" with the Baptist in mind; while younger people ask why so much preaching must be unrelated to the actual problems of religion in their current lives.

Our controversial history has also geared us to reactionary "hearing" and preaching. Perhaps older men like myself (what am I saying) who have debated Faith Only, Holy Spirit, etc., tend to hear "weakness" along those lines — because we know what former opponents would do with some of the statements we read and hear these days. Younger men, who have not and may never meet such teachers of error have a tendency to cast all this aside as "unnecessary in the first place." We should be patient with the sincere young man who is testing his studies against current problems; and he would do well to appreciate value in lessons

learned the hard way, in the battles of yesterday.

There is far too much haste in cataloging brethren by the way we "hear" their statement — without taking into consideration their background and the setting in which they spoke or wrote. It is one thing to point out error, or even to show that consistent application of that error would produce a certain end; and quite another thing to assert that the author accepts all consequences. One does not have to join the "Jesus People" movement in order to advocate simple, sincere worship of God free from "traditional hypocrisy;" nor is a long-established practice in worship necessarily "hypocritical." We need not ascribe to the abuses of the G.O.T. journal in order to teach the true nature of the church. One may work for better government as a Citizen without joining protestors intent on overthrowing law by revolt. One is not necessarily a "Sommerite" because he sees error in the professional "Pastor" system, or questions the practice of some school.

Maybe the "point" we thought we heard was just following a groove we dug for it. We challenge the musical taste of one who plays our own song.

—via Plain Talk, October 1971

## *Remember in Prayer*

**Joyce** continues to deal with cancer; **Betty** and **Robert** have seemed to have had more bad days than good, recently; however, we do thank God that **Buddy** is doing better. **Dwight's brother Steve** had heart surgery; **Alice's brother Randy Ray** had a heart

catheterization. **Cindy Vilander** is having more facial pain in addition to her current health issues.

Let's continue to pray for **Madelene Britnell**, **Carolyn Dennis**, and **Tim** and **Dot Hice**.