

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:

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“Whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

—Colossians 3:17

**Servants during August:**

Songleader: Peter (5), Stanley (12), Larry (19), David (26)

Reading: David

Announcements: Larry

Table: Mike Beckman, Robert, Marty, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (1), Kris (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris (29)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Larry (5), Kris (12), Marty (19), Stanley (26)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road
 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 4

September 5, 2021

Number 18

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 the oracles of God... 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!



DIFFERENCES IN THE UNIVERSAL AND "LOCAL" CHURCH

By Robert F. Turner

Even a casual reading of the New Testament shows various applications of the word "church". "I will build my church"; "the church, which is His body"; "Unto Him be glory in the church"— all, obviously, refer to the one universal church, Mt 16:18; Eph 1:23; Eph. 3:21.

But "tell it to the church"; "elders in every church"; and "let not the church be charged" as clearly refer to the local or organized congregation, of which there are many, Mt 18:17; Acts 14:23; 1 Tim 5:16.

Apparently it is not so clear, however, that the differences in these is something more than size and number. Study the differences listed below, and when you have grasped the significance (exemplified in some conclusions we have drawn) you will be able to add other "points" to this list.

Universal Church

In both heaven and earth	Eph 3:15
The Lord "adds" members	Acts 2:47
Entered by baptism	1 Cor 12:13
All saints are here	Gal 3:27
None but the saved	2 Tim 2:19
One Shepherd only	Mt 23:8
Assembled figuratively	Heb. 12:23
Satan can't prevail against	Mt 16:18

...A RELATIONSHIP OF SAINTS WITH GOD

Local Church

Earthly, limited	Phil 1:1
We "join" ourselves to	Acts 9:26
Entered by agreement with fellow-saints	3 Jn 10
Certain saints here	1 Cor 1:2
Some "not of us" here	1 Jn 2:19
Lesser Shepherds here	1 Pet 5:2
Literally assembles	1 Cor 14:23
Satan can and does prevail	Rev 2:5

...A RELATIONSHIP OF SAINTS WITH SAINTS

The universal church is a relationship of individuals with God, that comes first and exists regardless of what men do or say, as long as the individuals walk in God's truth, 3 Jn 9,10. The local church is an additional tie of saints with saints, which God wishes us to take in order that we may function as an organized unit—function collectively—to carry out His divine purposes.

Remember in Prayer

This past week has been difficult with **Joyce** as she deals with dizziness stemming from her cancer. Please continue to pray for **Betty** and **Robert**, and **Buddy** and **Pam** with their ongoing

health problems. **Ronda** had the virus, but is doing well; **Shane** ended out testing negative! Remember also **Madelene Britnell**, **Carolyn Dennis**, and **Tim** and **Dot Hice**.