

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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“...For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”

— Hebrews 5:12

**Servants during October:**

Songleader: Peter (3), Stanley (10), Larry (17), David (24), Peter (31)

Reading: Mike B

Announcements: Robert

Table: David, Peter, Larry, Mike M

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (6), Stanley (13), Kris (20), Larry (27)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Robert (3), Larry (10), Kris (17), Marty (24), Stanley (31)

Area Meetings: Belgreen, 10/18-22, Lonell & Larsen Plyler

The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 4

October 17, 2021

Number 24

Emphasizing the Basics

By Roger Hillis

If the Lord’s church is to survive and prosper, it must never depart from the basics of the gospel.

A wise and experienced elder once told me, “I’ve never known a church to grow that didn’t emphasize the basics. If a church is struggling, they just need to get back to first principles and preach them like the people have never heard them before.” That was good advice.

If Christians do not have a basic understanding of the elementary principles of the gospel, they have no solid foundation on which to build and grow. One of Christ’s parables spoke of the need of making certain that we build on the right foundation (see Mt 7:24-27).

That reminds us of the importance of teaching some of the same lessons over and over again.

There are several reasons for this. First, there are always young people growing up who have heard these lessons from the time of their birth. But, at a very young age, most of these studies do not sink in. At some point (and really, only God knows when it will be), a lesson that young people have heard numerous times finally takes hold and they understand an important truth for the very first time. We should never assume that our young people know and understand Bible subjects just because we know they have heard them before.

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Secondly, we can never be sure when a visitor will show up and, perhaps, hear a vital Bible lesson at a crucial time in his life. It may be the first and only time that person will ever have the opportunity to understand an important doctrinal point, which could make the difference in his eternal destiny. That's also why we should make certain to explain the plan of salvation during a lesson every time. You just don't know who may be listening carefully and seriously considering obedience. He might have listened many times in the past, have done nothing about what he was learning, and still be receptive this time.

Also, we must not assume that our older members (not in age, necessarily, but those who have been around a while) can always remember everything they've ever heard. It might have been a long time since they have studied a particular subject, or they might be aware of the truth but not know where the verses are that teach that truth. It is always helpful to be reminded of things we know to be true so that our convictions are deep and not easily shaken. These things help to mature and stabilize us spiritually "till we all come to the unit of the faith and the knowledge of the son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the

fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive," Eph 4:13,14.

There will be certain subjects that we will never outgrow. We must never be afraid to preach lessons that members have heard many times. When someone has been a Christian for several years, there is almost no way to preach something new to him. As people have said, "If it's new, it isn't true; and if it's true, it isn't new." No matter how much "strong meat" of the word people can handle, those who are the most mature spiritually will never grow tired of hearing these basic principles of truth, because they know how important they are. They love all truth and do not have to be entertained with "some new thing" all the time. "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food," Heb 5:12.

If people are not growing spiritually, if the church is struggling with carnality and division, if souls are not being saved, look first at the preaching. Maybe we need to just get back to the basics. 

The Stewardship that Leaves Home

By Jim King

Have you noticed your children lately? The baby who couldn't do anything but cry last month can now turn over by himself. The toddler who pleaded to be read to last week is suddenly a six year old who independently reads to himself. And the youngster who just yesterday wanted to borrow a crayon, today wants to borrow the car. All too soon, these eternal products of our stewardship will walk out our doors to begin lives of their own, never to return again in the same way.

All of our gifts from God come with a tag attached: "On loan. Manage properly. Be a good steward." "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful," 1 Cor 4:21. Our children are near the pinnacle of God's richest gifts. Every parent could say along with Jacob, who when asked about his offspring said, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant," Gen 33:5. Like turning out products at a factory, we parents have scheduling deadlines that must be met. We cannot put a child on hold

until we have more time. They will grow up with our having nurtured them in the Lord, or they will grow up without it. But they will grow up. We must strike while the iron is hot, and it is only hot for a few fleeting years.

Do you have a plan for carrying out God's commands to you as a parent? Are you deliberately and purposefully developing and implementing specific strategies that will start your sons and daughters on the road to maturity in Christ Jesus? Do you realize the urgency and infinite importance of this stewardship, or are you just haphazardly hoping that everything will somehow turn out right?

It would be great to save the world. But we need to begin with our little corner of it. Because one day the Master who owns these children is going to make us give an account for how we managed His precious gifts. "But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief," 1 Thess 5:4.



Remember in Prayer

Robert has had a bad week; he is hoping for help from test results later this week. **Buddy** continues to struggle with health issues, as well.

Let's not forget **Madelene Britnell**, **Carolyn Dennis**, and **Tim** and **Dot Hice**, and **Joyce Smith**. 