

**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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*"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success,"*  
 —Joshua 1:7.8

**Servants during November:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (7), Larry (14), David (21), Peter (28)

**Reading:** Mike M

**Announcements:** Larry

**Table:** Marty, Stanley, Mike B, Peter

**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (3), Kris (10), Larry (17), Stanley (24)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):**

On break for the winter...

**Area Meetings: West Madison St, Pulaski, TN, 11/28-12/1, Bobby Graham**

**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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## Blinded by Crumbs

*By Robert F. Turner*


"If you were to take the sum total of all authoritative articles ever written by the most qualified of psychologists and psychiatrists on the subject of mental hygiene—if you were to combine them and refine them and cleave out the excess verbiage—if you were to take the whole of the meat and none of the parsley, and if you were to have these unadulterated bits of pure scientific knowledge concisely expressed by the most capable of living poets, you would have an awkward and incomplete summation of the Sermon on the Mount. And it would suffer immeasurably through comparison. For nearly two thousand years, the Christian world has been holding in its hands the complete answer to its restless and fruitless yearnings. Here rests the blueprint for successful human life with optimum mental health and contentment." (From "A Few Buttons Missing," by James C. Fisher; Lippincott and Co., New York, 1951.)

Now brethren, what do you think of that? Before you become ecstatic because of the great honor given to the Master's sermon: (1) are your "restless

yearnings" no deeper than "successful human life with optimum mental health and contentment;" and (2) is this the goal of Jesus' sermon?

Often Christians are so hungry for a crumb of praise from the table of the world that they fail to see that many such crumbs humanize and defuse the spiritual and eternal purpose of the gospel of Christ. Many so-called "good works" develop worldly admiration for our "civic-mindedness" or "social awareness," and have nothing to do with causing people to truly "glorify God," Mt 5:16. God is glorified "in the church by Christ Jesus," Eph 3:21, and our "light" and "saltiness" must have to do with bringing people to Christ, Mt 5:11.

I appreciate Dr. Fisher's estimate of the Sermon on the Mount as a major contribution to a good life here and now, but would like to point out that this is but a by-product of its true purpose. Genuine Christianity is historically accurate, psychologically sound, economically wise— but primarily, it lights the way to heaven.

—via *Plain Talk*, February 1973 

# The Eunuch's Secret

By Joe Fitch

Look at a man who found the way of salvation, Acts 8:26-39. Do you know the secret of his success?

He had **AN OPEN BOOK**. We first meet him reading from the scriptures, v28. "Have you not read," Mt 12:3,5;19:4;21:16, etc.; and "What saith the scriptures," Rom 4:3, are inspired appeals for open Bibles. Jesus said the Sadducees were wrong about the resurrection "not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God," Mt 22:29. Is it strange to find people wrong about spiritual things when they never open their Bibles?

"Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ," Eph 3:4. Confusion is banished by knowledge. Reading an open book is the first key to "understanding what the will of the Lord is," Eph 5:17.

Many people avow they are looking for truth yet they never open their Bibles. They claim to love truth but refuse to discuss the scriptures. Something is wrong somewhere! "...[T]hy word is truth," Jn 17:17.

The man from Ethiopia also had **AN OPEN MIND**. Many people protest they cannot understand scripture. The problem may not be so much hard scripture as hard hearts. People observed the miracles of Jesus but just "couldn't see" that he was Christ. Why? They closed their eyes, Mt 13:15. It is hard to see anything with your eyes closed!

Consider the parable of the good Samaritan, Lk 10:29-36. Why couldn't the priest and Levite see the wounded man?

Was he hidden? No, they knew he was there. The Samaritan had no problem finding him. Suppose we move the wounded man into the middle of the road where you can't walk around him—the priest and Levite will just look up, step over, and keep walking! Attitude makes the difference. The Samaritan was **willing** to see.

Prejudice (pre-judging) is an enemy of the quest for truth. A verdict is reached before the evidence is heard. Nathaniel didn't ask Phillip how he knew Jesus of Nazareth to be the Christ; he just said, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth," Jn 1:45,46. He made up his mind when he heard Nazareth mentioned. Likewise, Jesus was discredited in Nazareth—his family were all common people, Mk 6:2-4. Stephen preached the truth and was killed, Acts 7:51-60. These people were—as he charged—"stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears," (i.e., closed minded).

"Come and see," Jn 1:46, is the only answer to prejudice. An honest heart will consider the facts—and change when wrong. Others will find excuses or ignore the situation completely.

An **OPEN MIND** and an **OPEN BOOK** can be the secret to **your** success. It was for the Bereans. They "received the word with all readiness of mind"—an open mind—and "searched the scriptures daily"—an open book—"whether those things were so," Acts 17:11. Or you can close your mind and Bible and drift gently on waves of self-satisfaction to hell!

—via *Plain Talk*, December 1969 

# Defining Success Differently

By Joshua Becker

I think all of society (ourselves included) would benefit if we started defining success differently:

Rather than defining success by the brand of clothing we can afford, may we find it in the number of people we have helped to clothe.

Rather than defining success by the amount of money in our bank account, may we find it in how much we used to help others.

Rather than defining success by the size of our house, may we find it in the amount of love that was shown there.

Rather than defining success by our level of education, may we find it in the degree of our integrity.

Rather than defining success by the number of 'likes' on our Instagram post, may we find it in how edifying and encouraging that post was to others.

Rather than defining success by the type of car that we drive, may we find it in those we have picked up in life and set down on a better road.

Rather than defining success by how loud our voice is, may we find it in how often we spoke up for those without one.

Rather than defining success in the quality and quantity of our personal possessions, may we find it in the level of selflessness we have shown to others.


Rather than defining success in the number of people who love us, may we find it in the number of people we have loved.

—from [www.becomingminimalist.com](http://www.becomingminimalist.com)

*This article was not written regarding the Bible in particular, and I don't know the author, or his spiritual condition; but his point is well taken... How will we personally define success? Consider: will it be as the world does? Or will we look to Scripture?*

*God told Joshua, "Only **be strong and very courageous**... This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but **you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success,**" Joshua 1:7,8.*

*Daniel explained his survival overnight in a lions' den, saying, "'My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as **I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.**' ...So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, **because he had trusted in his God. ...So this Daniel enjoyed success...**" Daniel 6:22,23,28.*

*If we strive to live as did Joshua and Daniel, we will find ourselves looking more like those truly successful in Mr. Becker's description... because we will be reflecting Christ. —Kris Vilander *

## Remember in Prayer

**Robert** has been feeling quite ill, and is seeing a heart doctor; **Pam** was involved in a car accident, but was uninjured.

Please continue to remember **Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, and Tim and Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith.** 