

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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*"...and nothing unclean,
 and no one who practices
 abomination and lying,
 shall ever come into it,
 but only those whose
 names are written
 in the Lamb's
 book of life,"*

—Revelation 21:27

**Servants during December:**

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

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Stanley

Table: David, Marty, Mike B, Mike M

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

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 4

December 5, 2021

Number 31

Weakness Today

By Robert F. Turner

In Christ's time, slavery was a common thing. The early church contained both masters (owners) and slaves—chattel property. Paul sent a slave that was a Christian home to his master, also a Christian, Phile 8-19; and Peter taught slaves to respect and obey even the froward master, 1 Pet 2:18.

Yet, in God's sight the soul of the slave was as important as that of any person, Eph 6:9; and Christians were taught to treat all alike, Jas 2:1ff. But the organized church was not taught to "lobby" against slavery as a social order, nor to revolt against a government that allowed it, 1 Pet 2:13ff. The divine institution has a spiritual mission—that of worshipping God and bringing lost souls to Him—and its resources must not be prostituted to temporal matters.

Instead, as the cited passages show, the doctrine of Christ abolishes slavery by its leavening influence—as it teaches men human dignity, Heb 2:6ff, and our equal kinship to the Creator, Acts 17:26. As true Christianity spreads, its followers lean and appreciate the brotherhood of man, and are freed of racial prejudices. We seek to better understand our "neighbors" and how to treat them. This is Christ-like character, and it develops and matures in the very nature man as we individually "put on" Christ, Phil 2:5ff; 3:12-15.

CHARACTER cannot be "legislated" into being; nor have congregations any business trying, by political or other carnal means, to force men to conform to Christ's law. The "gospel" is the power of God unto salvation, Rom 1:16, not


Uncle Sam's long arm.

As the gospel of Christ is taught, each individual Christian—as a citizen—will put its principles to work in civic, social, and economic affairs. He will pay taxes, respect authority, Rom 13:5ff, and in a Republic such as ours, cast his vote for equality and justice.

The local church, as such, teaches and nourishes character. If those who are members

participate in social injustices and racial hatreds, it is because the church has done a poor job of teaching Christ and exercising discipline. As the church fails the man, the man fails society and the state.

More directly, today's weakness is in the individual, who claims to be a Christian, but acts like a "heathen."

—via Plain Talk, September 1964 

The 'Seal' of the Holy Spirit, Eph 1:13

By Robert F. Turner

Mr. Turner was sent a request for his thoughts on this subject, accompanied by what he described as an excellent paper showing careful study; and which he noted that he incorporated in reply.

Deity has distinctive roles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But God is ONE and the eternal characteristics of God are inherent in all roles. One cannot serve the Son without serving the Father; one cannot live by the Spirit without living by or in the Son. We "know" God (are intimately related) to the extent we obey Him, 1 Jn 2:3-6; and God dwells in those who love one another, dwell in love, confess Jesus as Son of God, 4:12-16. Now the connecting link for all of this is God's word: Spirit inspired revelation that must be objectively approached,

believed, and followed by man, Rom 10:13-17. It is little wonder that the same Greek word for the "indwelling" of God, 2 Cor 6:16, and the Spirit of God, Rom 8:11, is also applied to the "indwelling" of the word of Christ, Col 3:16, and faith, 2 Tim 1:5. I agree with my correspondent that "The indwelling of Deity within the Christian figuratively describes the closeness of the relationship that is sustained between God and the believer." Think this over carefully!

The "seal," Eph. 1:13, is a mark of ownership. Being approved of God, although affecting our feelings and the hope within us, is not subjectively determined. The "mark" of God is given only after we "hear" and "believe" or, as put


in Acts 2:37,38, we hear, repent, and are baptized. The promise of the Spirit was closely related to the Abrahamic promise, Gal 3:14-29; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2; and embraced all blessings enjoyed "in Christ." We believe those who make "sealed with ...the Spirit" an "inner peace" determined by our "feelings" are ignoring the general context of revelation.

Paul taught that those who truly have God's Spirit "walk" in Him, and show His "fruit" in their life, Gal 5:16-26. The assurance we have of mercy and forgiveness is contingent upon a life of faith, of trying, and of pressing toward the mark, Rom 8:13-17; Phil 3:12-15. And in this very endeavor we, by God's grace, "partake of the divine image," Phil 2:5ff; 2 Pet 1:3ff.

The miraculous and extraordinary manifestations of the Holy Spirit are included in many

statements made to people of the first century, Acts 2:5:32, for confirmation was still necessary. But the "earnest" of our inheritance is something that extends far beyond those early days when the word was being delivered. It is a "down payment" on our future glory. Expositor's Bible Commentary says, "it is clear that what is in view here is not the ...miraculous gifts of the Spirit, but that ...in which all believers shared, which was the subject of ...OT prophecies ...and of which a new heart, a new spirit, was to be the result."

God-likeness in the saint, partaking of the divine image, being holy as He is holy, 1 Pet 1:16, or pure as He is pure, 1 Jn 3:3, etc., is the "seal" and "earnest" of the heavenly glory.

—via Plain Talk, April 1981 

Remember in Prayer

Cindy's husband, Dwight, has been suffering serious pain following his earlier colon surgery, and has been referred to a specialist after visiting the ER more than once. **Alice, two grandchildren, and her daughter-in-law, Michelle**, have Covid, but without major issues at this point.

The **Emerson's niece, Renée**, is at Vanderbilt with multiple health issues. **Robert** is feeling better this week, but **Buddy, Pam, and Dwight** have continuing health issues. **Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, and Tim and Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith** all need our prayers and expressions of love as well. 