

**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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*"...Truly I say to you,  
 unless you are  
 converted and become  
 like children, you will  
 not enter the kingdom  
 of heaven."*

—Matthew 18:3

**Servants during December:**

**Songleader:** 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)

**Area Meetings:** Gooch Lane, singing,  
 1/28 7pm

**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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## Humble as a Child

*By Gene Taylor*

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, 'Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, 'Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven,'" Mt 18:1-4.

In the above text His disciples approached Jesus wanting to know "who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" In order to answer their inquiry and teach them of the nature of His kingdom, He beckoned a little child to come to Him. He set the child in the midst of the disciples. He told them that unless they became as little children that they could not even enter into the kingdom of heaven and that if they were ever to be considered great in that kingdom that they would have to humble themselves even as a child is humble.

Humility is a key factor in one's

salvation. One cannot be saved by the gospel until he humbles himself in obedience to it. In the sermon on the mount Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," Mt 5:3. In commenting on this verse, H. Leo Boles said, "'The poor in spirit' are those whose minds are suited to the humble station of life; 'poor' means destitute of something; poor in spirit means those who are destitute of the proud, haughty, arrogant spirit of the world. ...It is the same spirit that is required when we are told that we must become as little children, if we would enter the kingdom of heaven. '...The poor in spirit' fitly describes a state of mind lowly and reverent before God; humble, not proud; contrite, not rebellious," (A Commentary on the Gospel According to Matthew, Gospel Advocate, p120,121). Humility, submission of one's selfish will and stubborn pride, is essential if one is to be saved.


That humility must continue during one's life as a Christian if he is to remain

in fellowship with God. The apostle Peter, writing to Christians in his first epistle, told them to be humble "...all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you," 1 Pet 5:5-7.

Though Jesus taught His disciples many lessons on humility, such as in Matthew 20:20-28, probably the most striking is found in John 13:1-16. Nearing the end of His life on earth, to illustrate the humility they needed to have, He stooped and washed their feet. Since He was their master, He could have demanded such an action of them but instead He performed this lowly task on them. You see, they needed to learn to humble themselves

to one another and to other men, Mt 7:12, if they were going to be able to fulfill the tasks He was going to give them.

We must have that same humility today. God still resists the proud and only gives grace to the humble. We must not be filled with pride but rather with humility, serving the Lord and ministering to the needs of others. As those disciples long ago were told to follow the example of Jesus, we must pattern our attitude and actions after it today. He humbled Himself in coming to earth, taking on the form of man and becoming the servant of all, Phil 2:5-8.

Let us be like that small child and like the Christ—meek and humble. Let us determine to be those who are willing to submit to the will of God in all things. It is only then that we will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven and great in the eyes of God. 

# Serious About Salvation

*By Dan Shipley*

One of my golfing friends asked the local pro if taking golf lessons from him would guarantee a better score. The wise pro replied, "Not until you get serious about golf!" Obviously, this instructor had learned an important lesson from indifferent students; namely, that those who don't care don't succeed. Many still need to learn that lesson, especially in the spiritual realm.

Even in the Lord's church there is much evidence of much complacency. In fact, I see it as one of the most

dangerous enemies of Truth today. Many Christians are just not serious about getting to heaven! The empty pew says it. The man who becomes careless and negligent about worshipping God is a man who is not serious about going to heaven, all excuses to the contrary notwithstanding. I read somewhere that participation is one of the most obvious indicators of interest. For the Christian active participation in spiritual activities such as Bible classes and

worship services is but an expression of faith. Do we say more when we call it an expression of interest? One is cause; the other effect. When only half as many participate in Sunday evening services as in Sunday morning services, what does it prove? (Other things being equal, of course) IT PROVES THE PRESENCE OF A SERIOUS PROBLEM!—and Christians who think otherwise have an even more serious problem! Every Christian who identifies with a local church agrees, in essence at least, to give of his time, talents, resources, and influence to help make that church what God would have it to be. Doing less hurts the church and dishonors its Head. We say that sinners need to hear the gospel and that saints need to be edified. But conduct a gospel meeting for that very purpose and hear again the incriminating testimony of the empty pew. Are we really serious about serving God?

Precious few, if any, Christians have not been exhorted to involve themselves in personal evangelism. We know the value of a soul, Mt 16:26. We know that only the gospel can save lost souls, Rom 1:16. We know that the

fields are "white unto harvest"; that the time is short; that the laborers are few—but how many are involving themselves with reaching the lost in a meaningful way? Many unsaved souls say it too: "Some Christians are not all that serious about going to heaven... or helping us get there!" And, if we would but listen, we could hear similar testimony from other sources as well.

For example, our closed and little used Bibles are harbingers of spiritual weakness. None can deny it. The man who has no interest in reading and reflecting upon the scriptures cannot be very serious about his salvation. Neither can the man who has forsaken prayer and introspection. When thoughts of Christians are seldom centered on "things that are above", it is evident they are not headed that way. Seriousness about salvation flavors every facet of life. It means to "seek ye first" and we must not deceive ourselves into thinking less is good enough. Think of what great things could be accomplished if ALL of God's people got serious about getting to heaven!

—via Plain Talk, December 1979 

## Remember in Prayer

**Cindy's husband, Dwight**, is doing some better, but is still undergoing tests for pain following his colon surgery, earlier. **Alice** had Covid, and has had a low grade fever for quite some time. **Buddy**, is very weak with the flu; **Chandler and his college roommate** have the flu as well. **Betty** saw a heart

doctor Thursday to try to get her blood pressure under control. **Faye** is planning to have outpatient surgery on her hand. **Madelene Britnell**, **Carolyn Dennis**, and **Tim and Dot Hice**, and **Joyce Smith** continue to need our prayers and expressions of love. 