

**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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“You shall love the  
 LORD your God with  
 all your heart and  
 with all your soul  
 and with all  
 your might.”



— Deuteronomy 6:5

**Servants during February:**

**Songleader:** Larry (6), David  
 (13), Peter (20), Stanley (27)

**Reading:** Mike M

**Announcements:** Larry

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

**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (2), Larry (9), Stanley  
 (16), Kris (23)

**Area Meetings:**

**Jordan Park**, singing, 2/18, 7pm;

**Market Street**, singing, 2/25, 7pm

**Eastside Russellville**, John Gibson, 2/25,26

**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

February 13, 2022

Number 41

## By Its Fruit

By Kris Vilander


There was a young man who had a little baby—his very first. He lovingly gazed at her and considered her future, and the awesome God-given responsibility of training this tiny person—so he began to think on what in specific he might need to teach her. Being a God-fearing man, he began searching the Scriptures, beginning with the Proverbs... but rapidly became disheartened. He had a difficult time sorting his random thoughts into a plan of action! But in the midst of his discouragement, he realized something he had not yet considered: being a good father meant more than simply knowing what to teach; he needed to be what he wanted to teach. “I was thinking about molding her; God was thinking about molding me,” (Bob Schultz, *Boyhood and Beyond*, Great Expectations Book Co., Eugene, Oregon, © 2004, p213).

Any reasonable parent wants the best for his children; and as Christians, that means we want them to follow after Christ. But there has to be a great deal of effort on our part: we have to guide them, recognizing that just as we make our own choices, so will they—and some of their choices will be in opposition to God’s will. For instance, Hezekiah was one of the very best kings of Judah. Scripture records that, “He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him. For he clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses,” 2 Kings 18:5,6. And yet, his son chose to be one of the absolute worst kings of Judah: “...Manasseh seduced [the people] to do evil

more than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel,” 2 Kings 21:9.

We can and should teach our children about God, His goodness, and about His will for our lives. Ancient Israel was told, “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,” Deut 6:6-9. We have a similar obligation; but notice the verse that precedes that passage: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your

soul and with all your might,” Deut 6:5. You will have absolutely no credibility with your children if what you teach them conflicts with what they see in your life—and, of course, that begins in your heart! Thoughts, words, and behaviors all start there, whether good or evil, Mt 15:19.

Effecting a change in your child’s life—or in anyone’s, for that matter—has to begin with a change in your own. You can’t really change anyone: your spouse, your children, your extended family, or your friends... except yourself. You have full control over that individual. And that change is critical if you want to influence anyone for Christ. Whether old or young, your children (and all those over whom you have influence), will notice, because “the tree is known by its fruit,” Mt 12:33b. 

brothers. Bragging about his dreams, which placed him over his older brothers, caused the brothers to sell him to Egypt as a slave. Joseph broke the relationship with his brothers. So, how did he fix it? During a time when his family needed him most, he did not bring up the past or hold a grudge. With the power he possessed he could have gotten even however; he did not choose that either. He forgave

them and provided a home for his family and their families, Gen 37, 42-45.

Moses resisted God’s call to lead the Israelite people out of Egypt. He offered God, the creator of all, five excuses for not following His command, Ex 3,4. Moses broke faith in God that He could accomplish great things through him. Did he fix it? Yes, and how! He faced Pharaoh 10 times making demands on God’s behalf, Ex 7-13. He went on to lead, judge, guide, teach, chastise, and encourage his people—all in the name of the One and Only God.


What about David? He broke his relationship with God by sinning, broke a marriage with adultery, broke a man’s future by having him killed, and broke his wife’s heart with the death of his son as a result of punishment, 2 Sam 11. How did he fix it? He began by listening to Nathan as he brought the sin to light, 2 Sam 12. Then he acknowledged his sin, took ownership, repented and moved forward to make things right. His deep love and strong faith are recorded in many Psalms which serve as inspiration for Christians of

today.

Peter did a masterful job of “breaking it.” He broke his friendship and loyalty with Christ with simple yet hurtful words, “I don’t know him,” Lk 22:54-62. Christ predicted it and then had to witness His friend denying Him at one of His lowest moments while on Earth. Betrayal, so painful and hurtful, words that can’t be recalled. Could Peter fix it? He began with his run to the open tomb to meet Christ again. His life was dedicated to the Lord’s service, beginning with the first sermon on Pentecost. He taught the Gentiles, suffered persecution and preached in many parts of his world.

You may think of Mary Magdalene, from sinner to follower of Christ; or Jacob’s deception with Esau, to making a peace offering; or Saul’s persecution of Christians, to being persecuted as a Christian.

If you have ever broken friendships, opportunities to serve, wedding vows, sobriety, or dedication to God then it is in your power to fix it. May God bless you in your efforts.

Sadly, the author of this article is unknown. 

# You Broke it, Now Fix It

“You broke it, now go out and fix it,” was a challenge Drew Bress, New Orleans Saints’ quarterback, was given after a potential career ending injury. It causes one to pause and consider, what have I broken and how can I fix it? The stories of several men and women from the Bible came to mind as examples. Let’s consider a few.

Joseph, with a little help from his father, caused jealousy with his

## *Remember in Prayer*

**Theresa’s husband, Kent**, is recovering from Covid. **Olin Britnell** was in ALH ICU, at last report on

Wednesday. Please continue to pray for **Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, and Joy Smith.** 