

**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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“...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

— Romans 14:17

**Servants during March:**

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

**Reading:** Stanley

**Announcements:** Robert

**Table:** Mike M, Larry, Mike B, David

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (2), Stanley (9),

Kris (16), Larry (23), Stanley (30)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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# The Bible . Examiner

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

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## What the Church Needs Now?

*By Wilson Adams*

Such is truly an important question especially in the wake of many modern campaigns, schemes, and denominational devices that have begun their advance into the Lord’s church. As the cry goes forth as to the needs of the “modern” church, the answers echoed in return all too often reflect the attitude of many who see the church in nothing more than a physical role. “Fellowship halls,” “youth programs,” “puppet ministries,” “bus ministries,” and all forms of church supported recreation are among the answers received to our question. However, is this what the church needs now? Is this what marks the characteristics of a “strong” church? Many in the pulpit as well as in the pew answer emphatically, “NO!” by showing that the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking (physical), but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (spiritual—Rom 14:17). And yet, how many of us turn right around and think that if the church just had a large meeting house, large attendance, and large contribution that such would fulfill the needs of the church and automatically make it strong? Inconsistent? Indeed it is!

Notice if you will that it is to this

problem that Paul addresses himself in 1 Cor 1-4. The situation here was one that found the Corinthian brethren viewing the church from a carnal, fleshly, and human viewpoint and not from the spiritual standpoint of God, 1 Cor 3:1-4. And the message of these first four chapters to us is that to be spiritual and understand spiritual things and gain spiritual values, then we MUST QUIT THINKING CARNALLY ABOUT THE LORD’S WORK! In view of this, Dear Reader, let me suggest to you that the church just needs now what it has always needed.

**Gospel Preaching**

Whatever happened to soul inspiring sermons on Repentance, Baptism, Faith, Discipleship, the Church, Worldliness, the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus etc... that used to ring boldly from the pulpits across the land? Whatever became of the preacher who could hold his audience spellbound because of his acute knowledge of the Word of God and yet at the same time not lose the simplicity of the message so that even the smallest school child could understand? Whatever happened to the preacher who would feed his audience spiritual food based on book, chapter, and verse rather than a

constant diet of commentaries and writings of men? Now this is not to say that there are no inspiring sermons being preached today, or that there are no preachers who can hold an audience, nor is my purpose to condemn any who might quote a particular scholar to offer clarity on a specific point or word (I often do). BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT AT THE ROOT OF MANY A PROBLEM TODAY, LIES THE LACK OF SIMPLE BIBLE PREACHING! I am convinced that in a good many places a generation may be arising that knoweth not the way of the Lord. Such should not be! As a young preacher, I take careful notice of the words of the older apostle to young Timothy to “preach the Word.” NOT human opinions, NOT the writings of men, BUT THE WORD! It would seem that we have developed a tendency to think that to be a successful preacher in God’s kingdom one must become a “specialist” in one field or another. And while there is something to be said for someone who has pursued knowledge in one particular area let us never lose sight of the fact that what we need to “specialize” in is the WORD!

Notice the words of the apostle in 1 Cor 2:1-5: “And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.” Yes, the power of preaching lies in the Word and not in man! Paul later stated that preachers are nothing more than planters and water-boys for it is

Almighty God who causes the growth, 1 Cor 3:4-7. Yes, what the church needs now is, as one fellow put it, “just plain ol’ gospel preachin’!” What characterized the growth of that early church? What made it strong? Gospel preaching by such men as Stephen, Peter, Paul, Timothy, Barnabas, and others. Men who preached Christ and Him crucified. May we follow their example!

### ***Gospel Listeners***

Not only does Paul admonish Timothy to “Preach the Word” in 2 Tim 4:1-4, but the apostle also shows us that preaching is a two-way street. There is the message and there is the reception of that message. Notice verses 3 and 4: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.” Yes, there are two things necessary for successful communication of a message. There must be (1) a transmitter, and (2) a receiver. Sometimes the receiver of the message of Christ is not very receptive to that message as evidenced by some of the reactions to first century preaching by Stephen, Paul, and even Christ Himself. So in this passage Paul admonishes Timothy not to become discouraged by those who reject the message (want their ears tickled) nor to detour himself from the message but to continually preach the Word “in season and out of season.”

However, a simple study of the book of Acts will show that there ARE individuals earnestly searching for truth and that many of the first century gospel sermons were followed by great results, Acts 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20. And I sincerely believe that with good sound Bible preaching today the same results

will, can and do occur!


In other words, what the church needs today is gospel lovin’ church members! Members who are zealous and at the same time couple such zeal with knowledge, Rom 10:2. Members who will demonstrate the courage to change their lives and bring them into accord with God’s Word and members who love the truth and who will uphold it. What does the church need now? Devoted Christians!

### ***Gospel Elders***

We’re hearing a lot about shortages these days and we’ve no doubt heard of the “preacher shortage” in the church today (and sadly to say the shortage is a reality), but I believe that there is an even greater shortage of men who are willing to dedicate their lives to the role of a shepherd of a local flock. And if there is anything that the church needs today it would be godly shepherds or elders. Men who have developed the quality of sound leadership required of a bishop. Men who put the kingdom first and men who support sound preaching. And if you worship at a place where there are godly men who serve you need to thank the Lord for them and get behind them. But why does a shortage exist? Could it just be that there is a lack of preaching on the eldership? Could it be that men are too preoccupied with material gain and have no time for it? Could it be that there are some brethren in congregations without elders who feel that if elders were

appointed that they would “lose their voice?” Could it be that brethren are busy reading more into the qualifications than God put there in the first place? Or could it just be that there is a general feeling among many that “we just don’t need elders?” Such attitudes as this prove to be a sad commentary on those who profess New Testament Christianity. Please note that the Lord through the apostles appointed elders in every church, Acts 14:23; Tit 1:5, and such is part of His plan for the organization of His church and we need to realize it. Furthermore, 1 Tim. 3:1 states that “if a man seeketh the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work,” ASV. Herein lies the key. The office of a bishop is something that is not acquired with little forethought but should come after years of preparation. We need to instruct the young to begin now to prepare and order their lives in such a way that one day they can serve as elders in God’s kingdom.

A great church is NOT great because it has a large building, large crowd, large contribution, great campaigns, and all kinds of ministries. A great church is great when it’s full of great Christian people. And Dear Reader, let no one mislead you into thinking that the “modern” church needs something different than the church of New Testament times for the church just needs today what it has always needed: Gospel Preaching, Gospel Listening, and Gospel Elders.

—via Searching the Scriptures, Jan 1980 

## *Remember in Prayer*

Carolyn’s nephew, Rusty Griffin, had a biopsy taken from a mass found in his lung; please pray for him. The Beddingfield’s and Emerson’s often experience health issues; remember them, as well as **Madelene Britnell**,

**Carolyn Dennis, Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith.** Please continue to pray for those affected by the war, 1 Tim 2:1,2; and persecuted brethren throughout the world, Eph 6:18. 