

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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“...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/April:**

Songleader: Stanley (27), Larry (4/3), David (4/10), Peter (4/17), Stanley (4/24)

Reading: Stanley, Larry (April)

Announcements: Robert, Stanley (April)

Table: Mike M, Larry, Mike B, David; Peter, David, Robert, Marty (April)

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (30), Kris (4/6), Larry (4/13), Stanley (4/20), Kris (4/27)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (4/3), Marty (4/10), Stanley (4/17), Larry (4/24)

Area Meetings: Gooch Lane Singing (4/1); Gooch Lane, 3pm (4/3,10,17,24); Eastside, Red Bay (4/3-8); Jordan Park, (4/3-7); Helton Drive, (4/3-7)

Hays Mill church of Christ

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 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

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A Living, Transforming Hope

By Paul Earnhart

It is reported that several years ago researchers did a study to determine the effect hope has on those undergoing hardship. Two sets of laboratory rats were placed in separate tubs of water from which they could not escape unaided. The researchers left one set in the water and found that within an hour the exhausted rats all drowned.

The other rats were periodically lifted out of the water and then returned. These animals swam for over 24 hours. Why? Not because they were given rest, but because they had hope! They had come to believe that if they held out just a little longer, someone would reach down and rescue them. Without defending what seems to have been a rather cruel experiment, we simply observe that if this is the effect of hope on unthinking rodents, what must its power be in

the lives of human beings?

There is nothing so critical to the success of gospel teaching as that it gives genuine hope to sincere hearers. Any supposed teaching of Christ which drives honest searching hearts to despair is a subversion of God’s gracious purpose. “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who had fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us,” Heb 6:17,18.

We do not speak here of the proud, the insincere, the worldly hearers. The gospel is designed to cause them to stumble in their lusts. But genuine and humble souls should be made to rejoice at the implications of the story of the cross. However much tempered

with sobriety, the response of such people to the preaching of Jesus should always, at last, be joy. This is not to deny that the gospel begins with a profoundly painful indictment of sin, but it is easy to say that such should not be the final impact of the message. If the preaching of Christ begins by driving us to our knees in repentance, it must end by lifting us to our feet in confident faith and hope. Paul says that we are saved “in hope,” Rom 8:24, and truer words were never spoken. It is the confidence we feel in God’s gracious promises and the assurance He gives us of our power to obtain them by faith that keeps us going and growing, serving God through good times and bad.

Indeed, it is this living by hope alone, having seen none of those blessed things which are the driving influence of our lives, which causes us to be so profoundly changed in character and attitude. We have to do right when not only is the reward for right nowhere in sight, but when punishing consequences for doing it are very near and very tangible. So is faith deepened and hope brightened, 1 Pet 1:3-9.

And there is every reason that those who have trusted in Christ should have a bright and confident hope. The most wonderful thing has already happened. God, in the cross, has demonstrated His love for us so powerfully that we can never again have cause to doubt the depth

of His commitment, Rom 5:8; 8:31. As Paul wonderingly asks, if that is what God is willing to do for His enemies, what would He be willing to do for His friends, Rom 5:10,11? It is beyond imagining!

But it is not just God’s overwhelming love for us that gives us hope, but the immensity of the power that works that loving purpose. Some have love, but no power. Others have power, but no love. God has both. “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all ages, world without end. Amen,” Eph 3:20,21.

On March 5, 1979, scientists noted what was then called the most powerful energy burst every recorded. This burst of gamma radiation picked up by satellites lasted only one-tenth of a second, but in that brief instant it emitted as much energy as the sun does over a period of 3,000 years. That kind of energy, coming from our sun, would have vaporized the earth.

We marvel at the power that God sends pulsating through the universe, but it is dwarfed by the power that a loving God has exercised to save a lost humanity. Even the power that created the world is small by comparison to the enormous energy which God wields to produce spiritual rebirth in a

single human being. That power, Paul says, beggars our wildest imaginings, and it is working in us!

How great, then, our hope should be, and how powerfully such a hope should affect how we live our

lives and how we face our troubles and our failures. If we should grasp even a measure of this truth, would it not revolutionize us?

Lord, increase our faith—and our hope! 📖

Presence

By Janice Etter

What makes a healthy garden? Does anybody know?
Is it nitrogen or potash? The perfect time to sow?
Will your garden be productive if you follow all the rules,
If you put in irrigation and buy the latest tools?

You tuck the seeds in snugly and pray for them to grow;
You wait and wonder, then rejoice when first the seedlings show.
Some you tend in fearful hope and some with joyful song,
But enemies will take them if you turn your back for long.

You shelter tender plantlets from the scorching sun and wind;
You pray for decent weather and the blessing God can send;
But your daily contributions, needed more than sweat or toil,
Are your ever-watchful shadow and your footprints in the soil.

—Far from talking about garden plants, this word picture vividly illustrates the absolute need for the presence of parents in their children’s lives...
via **Keepers at Home**, Spring 2022 📖

Remember in Prayer

Pray for Joyce, as she is undergoing further evaluation for her cancer. Carolyn’s nephew, Rusty Griffin, had a biopsy that turned out not to be cancerous, for which we express thanks! Shane’s hand is healing from a recent break. The Beddingfield’s and Emerson’s often

experience health issues; please 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. 📖