

**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:**

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

**E-mail:** kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

**Website:** www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel,”

— *Judges 2:10*

**Servants during May/June:**

**Songleader:** Larry (29), David (6/5), Peter (6/12), Stanley (6/19), Larry (6/26)

**Reading:** Mike B; David (June)

**Announcements:** Larry; Marty (June)

**Table:** Stanley, Marty, Mike M, Peter; Mike B, Robert, Larry, Mike (June)

**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (6/1), Kris (6/8), Larry (6/15), Stanley (6/22), Kris (6/29)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Robert (29), Kris (6/5), Marty (6/12), Stanley (6/19), Larry (6/26)

**Area Meetings:**

*Various churches:* Quinn; Eastside (Athens); Lacy's Spring; College View; Southside (Athens) (June 5-10)

**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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## Coasting Along

By Jefferson David Tant

Recently, someone asked me “What is your biggest concern for the next generation as it relates to the kingdom?” That’s a good question, as each generation has its own challenges, some of which are the same in every generation, for our world is challenged daily by Satan. Yet there are new challenges, as youth today face challenges that were unknown in my youth. But I suppose every generation has faced things that were unknown to their forefathers.

Has it not been so from the earliest times? Consider the generation that entered the Promised Land under Joshua’s leadership, a generation that made a solemn vow. “If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” The people answered and said, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did these great signs in our sight and preserved us through all the way in which we went and among all the peoples through whose midst we passed,’”

Josh 24:15-17.

The Israelites had witnessed some of the greatest miracles of history, had received manifold blessings from God, and solemnly vowed to serve him faithfully. But just two chapters later, we have these words recorded: “All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel,” Judg 2:10.

I have just read Traces of the Kingdom, a fascinating look at the persecutions Christians endured in Europe, mainly England, hundreds of years before our “Restoration Movement” in the United States. I marvel at the strong faith of these saints who often had to meet in secret, who had their lands and possessions confiscated. Multiplied thousands were tortured, burned at the stake, or starved to death in prison. And yet they persevered. They were militant in their proclamation of the gospel, fearlessly debating their religious foes, and not flinching from pointing out the error in the false religions around them.

Have we become complacent in the midst of our comfort and freedom? Do we have such a desire to blend in and not cause any disagreements that we go out of our way not to offend? Obviously, it should

never be our intent to offend, but truth does sometimes offend, even when spoken in the kindest way. Christ offended people, Mt 13:57; 15:12. Paul offended people, Acts 16:22,23, etc. John the Baptist offended Herod and got his head cut off, Mk 6:22-28.

Would the prophet Amos proclaim to us as he did so many years ago to Israel: "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion," Amos 6:1? Where is our militant spirit? Oh, we may be militant about not missing our favorite TV show or football game, but are we militant about the gospel? In the past, we have seen as many as 15 or 18 baptized into Christ here (Tant's local work, ed.) in one year. Question: What is the origin of these converts? In the first five years of the congregation, 41 were baptized, 66% of those were the result of evangelism, i.e., they were not our family members or those who sought us out. In the past five years, 47 have been baptized, and about 47% were the result of evangelism. Consider also that 30+ years ago we started with 12 members, and may have reached 50 or 60 in the first five years. In the past five years, we have had 120 or more members. So what's the

point in all these figures? It would seem we have become less militant and more at ease in Zion. Just four were baptized in 2012. Two were from evangelism!


So, what is my concern for the next generation? I will state it in a positive manner.

**We must be grounded in sound doctrine.** Lessons to edify and encourage are needed, but we also need teaching on doctrine, that our roots may be firmly planted in truth.

**We must be a committed people**—faithful in our assembling together, and committed to living a godly life every day of the week.

**We must be committed to congregational and personal evangelism.** We cannot wait for the lost to seek us. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost," Lk 19:10. Jesus didn't wait for the lost to seek him.

**We must be diligent in instilling The Faith in our children,** for the world and our educational systems are determined to destroy their faith.

My grandfather often said, "Brethren, we are drifting." Let it not be said of us. 

## What Is a Sacrifice?

*By Jefferson David Tant*

Have you ever given serious thought to what it means to sacrifice something? We are familiar with the Old Testament ritual of the animal sacrifices that were required. OK, so a sheep or a cow was sacrificed. But have you read the accounts of the multiple sacrifices that were offered on occasion? Consider 2 Chronicles 30:23-25 as the observance of the Passover was reinstated after not being observed for some years.

"Then the whole assembly decided to celebrate the feast another seven days, so they celebrated the seven days with joy. For Hezekiah king of Judah had contributed to the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep, and the princes had contributed to the

assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep; and a large number of priests consecrated themselves. All the assembly of Judah rejoiced, with the priests and the Levites and all the assembly that came from Israel, both the sojourners who came from the land of Israel and those living in Judah."

Did you count them? That's 19,000 animals! Can you even begin to imagine the time and effort to slaughter that many animals? Then what about the blood, the flies, the stench? And what a mess to have to clean up after the offerings were made.

19,000 animals. Where did they come from? They were gifts from the people. This very likely would have been a part of their

livelihood. It cost them something. Aren't we thankful that we don't have to engage in this activity today?

But what is the meaning of "sacrifice?" One source says, "an act of offering to a deity something precious; especially: the killing of a victim on an altar." Isn't this exactly what Christ did for us? He literally offered up something precious—his life. He was killed on the altar of the cross. Why? Because he loved you. He loved me. And he wanted to spare us from the fires of eternal hell.

We have so much to be thankful for.

Thankful that we don't have to go through these animal sacrifices week after week, month after month, year after year, decade after decade, century after century, etc.

Thankful that Christ erased all that by offering himself as the perfect sacrifice when he allowed himself to be tortured in a cruel death.

Thankful that Christ has opened the door to heaven for us through his sacrifice.


Thankful that God has given us instructions in his revealed word, the Bible, as to how we might one day hear the words Christ used in one of his parables: "Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master," Mt 25:21.

So, how do we express our thanksgiving for what God has done for us in forming a plan for our salvation, for what Christ has done in offering himself as a sacrifice for us, and for what the Holy Spirit has done in revealing all of this through the Scriptures? Paul expressed it well in his letter to the

church in Rome. "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship," Rom 12:1.

Please consider the fact that this is not a "go to church on Sunday" way of living. It is living daily for the Lord. Can you imagine an employee just showing up on payday, expecting to receive his wages?

But there is a special day set aside for us to be reminded of what God has done for us, and how thankful we should be. That is the first day of the week, when we are told to come together to worship God, to encourage one another, and to partake of the Lord's Supper. We know that the Lord's Supper was a weekly observance in the early church. On that day we reflect on the excruciatingly painful sacrifice Christ made for us on the cross, and give some thought to the question, "Is my life a living sacrifice for him?" Paul expressed some thoughts about the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26: "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Not just on Sunday, but do we live for him every day? That's the least we can do in return for the sacrifice he made for us. 

## *Remember in Prayer*

Betty is scheduled for cancer surgery June 28<sup>th</sup> at Vanderbilt; Robert is wearing a heart monitor. Buddy had surgery in Birmingham, and is expected back home Tuesday or Wednesday. Cindy V had a cyst

surgically removed Friday. Joyce still struggles with cancer; please continue to pray for her, as well as Carolyn Dennis and Dot Hice. 