

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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“But there were some of them... who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord,”

— Acts 11:20,21

**Servants during June:**

Songleader: David (5), Peter (12), Stanley (19), Larry (26)

Reading: David

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike B, Robert, Larry, Mike

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

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (5), Marty (12), Stanley (19), Larry (26)

Area Meetings:

College View (12-15); 4th Street Cullman (12-17); Elgin Hills Rogersville (12-17); Isbell (19-22); Hillsboro Heights Moulton (26-30); Gooch Lane (6/25-7/1)

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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“PEOPLE OF GOD”

By Robert F. Turner

There are two classes of people in the world: those acceptable to God, and those not acceptable. Peter says of the acceptable, ‘Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people...’ (RV “a people for God’s own possession”), 1 Pet 2:9. These “people of God” are those “called out of darkness into his marvelous light,” 1 Pet 2:10.

The “call” is that of the gospel of Christ, 2 Thess 2:14, by which all people are taught, Jn 6:45. In one sense, this “call” is the dividing line between those acceptable to God, and those not acceptable; in that those who believe and obey God’s call are acceptable, while all others are “in darkness,” “without mercy.” (Note with care: Col 1:12-14; Acts 26:16-18; Acts 2:37-42).

In the first century these “called out” people—these “acceptable” with God—were called the CHURCH, i.e., the Greek word by

which they were then designated, is now translated as “church”. (Note Acts 11:20-26. In Antioch those who heard the preaching of Christ, and believed, turned to the Lord; these made up the CHURCH; cf Acts 20:28; Phil 1:1; 4:15) Thus, the New Testament teaches that the CHURCH (i.e., those who make up the church) are the people acceptable unto God; while all others (those outside the church) are not acceptable.

Yes, the church is important! Yes, church membership is essential! Those who are not a part of the Lord’s church are not a part of the people or God! THESE SEEMINGLY EXTREME STATEMENTS ARE “RADICAL” ONLY TO THOSE WHO FAIL TO GRASP THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SCRIPTURAL DEFINITION OF “CHURCH” OR “PEOPLE OF GOD.”

I have not said you must “join my party” to be saved. I have not said that only members of a

denomination called “Church of Christ” would be saved. But I must make it equally clear that no one is a member of the Lord’s church—that will be saved—who has not “obeyed from the heart” the unadulterated call of the gospel. (*Study Rom 6:16-18,3-7; Acts 2:37-47*).

Methodist sprinkling, Baptist voting, and “Church of Christ” communion are not gateways to heaven. We must learn to distinguish between being acceptable to a party of people, no matter what name they wear, and in being acceptable to God.

The “people of God” are likened unto a temple, in which God dwells. The foundation is Jesus Christ, and the walls are of lively stones—

faithful Christians, 1 Cor 3:11,16-17; 1 Pet 2:4-8. They are likened unto a kingdom of citizens, with Christ as King, Col 1:13; or a body of members, with Christ as Head, Eph 1:22,23; 1 Cor 12:12f. The church belongs to Christ and congregations of Christians are called “churches of Christ,” Mt 16:18; Rom 16:16. God’s people are even likened unto the bride of Christ, Eph 5:23f; so it is easy to see why these people should wear His name.

But the people of God wear the name of Christ because they are His people—they are not His people because they wear His name. (Maybe this should be re-read—slowly!!)

—via *Plain Talk*, Dec 1964 

Faithful To—What?

By Robert F. Turner

I believe Christians may “depart from the faith,” “fall away from grace,” even “deny the Lord that bought them,” 1 Tim 4:1; Gal 5:4; 2 Pet 2:1, for the scriptures clearly teach this. Our Baptist friends err when they apply 1 Jn 2:19a to “all” (note 19b) who fully backslide.

But “we” err in thinking that all who are baptized, and are “faithful” in their home-town, are truly converted to Christ.

It is a common cry in California, Arizona—and I suspect in the

northeastern industrial areas—that many “faithful Christians” from Tennessee, Oklahoma or Texas, come there to work, and “never darken the church doors.” Friends write that they were “faithful to the church” back home.

And that is it—exactly. They were indeed “faithful to the church” (apparently) but were not faithful to the Lord. Many “grew up in the church” without really knowing, in a direct and personal way, the truth. They may have been drilled in “the

right answers” concerning baptism, the Lord’s Supper, instrumental music, etc., yet never have committed themselves to honest Bible study—never have given themselves whole-heartedly to Christ.


“Back home” their parents—and later, their friends—expected them to “be faithful” (meaning, attend the “services”) and they did so. But away from home, separated from home-town pressures to conform, their lack of genuine ties to Christ is apparent. It was not “worldly California” that drew them away—although I offer no rose to materialism in California or Tennessee. They simply were not bound by the love of God in the first place.

Much of our lament about the young people who “quit the church” is equally misdirected. “Area-wide” socials, “church skating parties” and other “fellowship hall” activities do not bind the youth to Christ. They actually increase the rate of apostasy when these young people leave home and are thrown into an environment that calls for spiritual strength. We have fed hungry souls with hamburgers. We have deprived

them of training for the church-world, light-darkness battles they must meet in an adult life.

Is “churchanity” responsible for much of the weak spiritual fiber seen in those who go astray? I believe it is—and have, for twenty years or more, been preaching the evils of “party line” religion. But God forbid that I should deny the existence of the divinely authorized local church, or the organized functions of its members. Sectarianism arises among God’s people—whether they call themselves “church” or “group”—when they regard themselves as the standard for “soundness.” “No church” may be as much a party line as any “church-of-Christ” ever preached.

The church doesn’t need another savior; we (the church distributively) simply need to be faithful to the Savior we have. By this example, and by objective, non-sectarian appraisal of our practices in the light of the word of God, we may be able to teach the next generation to turn to the Lord, and cleave to Him, Acts 11:20f.

—via *Plain Talk*, Sept 1966 

Remember in Prayer

Pray for the brethren all over the world suffering because of war or poverty... but especially for Christ’s sake, Mt 5:10-12.

Remember the Beddingfield’s and Emerson’s, and all those with chronic health issues, including Carolyn Dennis, Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith. 