

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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“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves,”

— Matthew 10:16

**Servants during July:**

Songleader: David (3), Peter (10), Stanley (17), Larry (24), David (31)

Reading: Robert

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Marty, David, Peter, Mike B

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (6),

Stanley (13), Kris (20), Larry (27)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Robert (3),

Kris (10), Marty (17), Stanley (24), Larry (31)

Area Meetings:

Parkway (24-29);

Jennings Chapel (24-29);

Piney Grove (7/31-8/3)

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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Serpents and Doves

By David Smitherman

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves,” Mt 10:16.

Serpents and doves—two creatures that have little in common. And yet, in the development of our character, we are to be “as” they are in some respects. Quite a paradox, isn’t it? Well, much of the Christian’s character is a paradox. For instance...

We are to control our tongue, Jas 3:1ff, but also speak boldly, Eph 6:20. There is no virtue in a bold tongue that is uncontrolled or one so controlled that it is never bold. Our tongues need a “controlled boldness” in order to rebuke sin both publicly, Gal 2:11ff and privately, Mt 18:15. Though the consequences may be unpleasant, Mk 6:16-18, we must speak boldly, and when occasion demands it our bold tongues must be blunt,

Mt 23:15. Fear of saying a wrong thing should not keep us from saying the right thing, Mt 10:26,27. “Silence is not always golden, sometimes it is just plain yellow.”

Paul’s humility, 1 Cor 15:9, and yet his confidence, 2 Tim 4:7,8, exemplify yet another paradox. Humility should not breed timidity but neither should confidence give rise to arrogance. Humility will keep us aware of our own weaknesses but should never cause a hesitancy to point out sin in the lives of others, 1 Cor 5:1-13. We are humbled by our liability to err in opinions and understanding of Truth, but are confident that there are some things of which we are sure that cannot be compromised, Gal 2:5.

The virtue of longsuffering, Gal 5:22, must be balanced by intolerance, Col 2:4,8,16,18. Longsuffering is needed as attempts are made to progress toward maturity, but intolerance is

demanded when progress is not made and goals not reached, 1 Cor 3:1-3; Heb. 5:11ff. It is one thing to suffer long with sinners as they attempt to conquer sin but quite another to tolerate wrongdoing, Rev 2:15,16; 20,21.

We must certainly care what others think about us, Mt 5:13-16, but at the same time think little of how others evaluate us, Gal 1:10. The virtue of living to influence others, Phil 2:12-16, can so easily become the vice of living to please others, Gal 2:11ff.

Some are prone “by nature” to be “as serpents” or “as doves” and the Devil uses our “natural inclinations” to cause an imbalanced character. He would

have us emphasize what comes easily and de-emphasize what doesn't. As a consequence we often go to extremes: either a pseudo-sophisticated person who thinks that “cultured” people avoid bold speech, confident affirmations, intolerance of sin, and conduct that may “offend” others; or a crudeness that is abusive in speech, arrogant, intolerant, and unconcerned about what others may think.

The development of a balanced, yet paradoxical, character does not come quickly (Heb 5:12—“by reason of time”), nor is it easy (1 Cor 9:25—“striveth...self-control”), but there are no short cuts to maturity.

—via *Plain Talk*, Sept 1983 

What the Work of the Church Is NOT

By James Hahn

In this article, we wish to call attention to those things that God does not authorize as the work of the church.

Political Issues: Even though there are issues such as abortion, homosexuality, etc. that we must oppose and teach against, we must recognize it is not the work of the church to develop or carry out a political agenda. These issues may

be political issues for some, but as the people of God, we deal with them the same way we deal with other sins; by teaching the word of God and seeking a change of heart in those who hear.


Secular Education: I am sure all agree that proper education of a secular nature is good and beneficial. However, it is not the work of the church to build,

support, or maintain schools or colleges to provide such education. This is the responsibility of the home, rather than the church. Paul acknowledged that there are responsibilities to be fulfilled by individuals, “and let not the church be charged,” 1 Tim 5:16. This could be applied to each of the things discussed in this article.

Social Activities: It is good for brethren to get together and enjoy one another's association. However, we need to remember: “What? Have ye not houses to eat and to drink in?” 1 Cor 11:22. It is not the work of the church to provide for social meals and gatherings. If we wish to save souls, we must use that which will accomplish such. Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth,” Rom 1:16. To resort to gimmicks and carnal attractions is not only without authority, but also demonstrates a lack of faith in God and His will.

Recreation and Entertainment: Wholesome recreation and entertainment has its place, but it is not the work of the church to

provide such. In recent years, it seems that many are more desirous of turning the church into a country club or health spa than “letting the church be the church.” As a result of this thinking, we see churches sponsoring ball teams, building gymnasiums and sponsoring various forms of entertainment. I have received announcements of “clowns for Jesus,” magicians, puppeteers, body builders or singing groups all being used by churches to reach the masses. The one thing lacking in these announcements is the Scripture that would authorize the church to provide such.

Paul tells us that God has provided all that is necessary “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,” Eph 4:12. Note the parallel between Ephesians 4:11,12 and 2 Timothy 3:16,17. The inspired Scriptures are all we need. We need to put our faith in God and His word, and not in the schemes and gimmicks of men that appeal to the flesh. 

Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for Alice's sister, Ann Strange, and Stanley's sister-in-law, Pam McNatt; also the Beddingfield's and

Emerson's, and all those with chronic health issues, including Carolyn Dennis, Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith. 