

**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

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“For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

— 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

**Servants during July/August:**

**Songleader:** David (7/31), Peter (7), Stanley (14), Larry (21), David (28)

**Reading:** Robert (July); Mike M (Aug)

**Announcements:** Stanley (July); Larry (Aug)

**Table:** Marty, David, Peter, Mike B (July); Stanley, Marty, Mike B, Peter (Aug)

**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (3), Kris (10), Larry (17), Stanley (24), Kris (31)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):**

Larry (7/31), Kris (7), Marty (14), Stanley (21), Larry (28)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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# The Bible . Examiner

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

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## Made Alive with Him

By David Smitherman

When the apostle Paul preached the gospel, he preached the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, 1 Cor 15:1-4. And, equally important, he showed how every believer identifies with Christ’s sacrifice in order to procure its benefits. Indeed, salvation is made dependent on the believer’s fellowship with the death, burial, and resurrection of his Savior.

Accordingly, there is a death to be experienced by every believer who would live with Christ. “But if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him,” Rom 6:8. As Paul shows in Rom 6:2, the Christian is one who has died to sin. None can make rightful claim to being “of Christ” who has not “crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof,” Gal 5:24. Where else but in

repentance does the believer determines to put off the old man with his doings,” Col 3:9? Thus, he “reckons” (considers) himself to be dead unto sin, Rom 6:11, and determines that sin shall not have reign and dominion over him, Rom 6:12,14. That means no longer living for self and like the world. Christ died for all “that they that live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who for their sakes died and rose again,” 2 Cor 5:14. When Christ and not the world determine how we live, we can say with Paul that “the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world, Gal 6:14. In view of such truths it is obvious that a crucified self is no less important than a crucified Christ! The fact that He “died for our sins,” 1 Cor 15:3, has real significance only to those who are willing to die to sin.

Then, as every believer dies with Christ, he must also be buried with Him. Paul shows that this burial is in the waters of baptism and no other place. “Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death,” Rom 6:4. As Whiteside says, “We are not baptized into the literal death of Christ, but into the benefits of his death, including the freedom from sin. A person is not completely dead to sin till he is separated from it, and that separation takes place in baptism,” (Commentary on Romans, p129). The death to sin that is resolved in true repentance is consummated in baptism. Any man who ever put on Jesus Christ is a man who was baptized into Christ, Gal 3:27, and any man who was ever baptized into Christ was buried with him in baptism,

Rom 6:4; Col 2:12. This burial in baptism cannot be the sprinkling or pouring that some call baptism because the word itself means immersion or submersion.

Finally, the believer who has died and been buried with Christ is also raised with him to a newness of life, Rom. 6:4. This is possible because of what happened in baptism. As Jesus promised, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,” Mk 16:16. Saul of Tarsus was told that his sins would be washed away in baptism, Acts 22:16. Remission of sins is promised to such believers as will repent and be baptized, Acts 2:38. With the forgiveness of sins we are made alive together with him, Col 2:13. This life comes only with this death, this burial and resurrection.

—via *Plain Talk*, Sept 1981 

# The Other Gate...

By Robert F. Turner

There it was, in bold letters:

**GATEWAY TO HEAVEN**

The burial plots about the sign were beautifully kept, and the

whole setting produced a calming effect.

Then this pointed head had another thought: viz—WHERE IS THE OTHER GATE?

I looked all around that cemetery without success, and as I drove down the highway my failure deepened. Here was “Memorial Garden,” “Peace Park,” and “Glen Rest,” but no other gate.

“Gates Ajar” provoked my curiosity, but closer investigation showed all parties involved had the first place in mind. The memorial tablets carried nothing but praise for the citizens of this city.

I was reminded of the Chinese tale of the emperor who asked his wise men to devise a plan for national improvement. One genius suggested that he kill all citizens then living, and resurrect the illustrious dead to take their place. All the dead were wonderful people, according to the tombstones. Wishful thinking must be a universal substitute for reality.

Must we be so cynical? Believe me, dear ones, it is an effort to bring you to a better hope. I know the desperate grasp for “peace, when there is no peace;” for


assurance, when our hearts are heavy.

But where is that other gateway? IT MAY BE RIGHT THERE IN THAT FIRST SIGN. In empty words, in soothing assurance that comes from sympathetic friends (whom we all appreciate) but who have neither right nor reason to offer such hope.

Have these blinded us to the truth of our situation? By taking reality out of Hell—in essence, by denying its existence when the real show-down comes—have we reduced Heaven to a verbal tranquilizer for the bereaved?

I have never known anyone to object to the preacher saying a loved one had gone to heaven; but can’t you hear the angry cries that would go up if he said they went the other way?

“How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it,” Mt 7:14, HCSB. Check your ticket! You may be holding a pass for the wrong gate.

—via *Plain Talk*, May 1964, original from regular column, “Stuff About Things” 

## Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for Alice’s sister, Ann Strange; Stanley’s sister-in-law, Pam McNatt; and the Beddingfield’s. Betty is to have a skin graft mid-

August; and Robert is still undergoing tests for his heart issues. Please pray for them, as well as Carolyn Dennis, Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith. 