

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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“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.”

— Ephesians 4:31

**Servants during August:**

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

Reading: Mike M

Announcements: Larry

Table: Stanley, Marty, Mike B, Peter

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

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

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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Poisoned By Bitterness

Part One of Two Articles

by David Padfield

Simon the sorcerer committed a terrible sin by attempting to purchase the gift of God with money. He was among a large number of people from Samaria who obeyed the gospel of Christ through the preaching of Philip, Acts 8:4–13. When the apostles from Jerusalem came to Samaria, Simon offered them money so that he might obtain the same spiritual gifts they demonstrated. Simon was rebuked by Peter as being a man whose heart was not right with God, for he was “poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity,” Acts 8:20–23.

Bitterness is a sin that will keep people out of heaven. Paul admonishes us to remove bitterness from our lives, Eph 4:31. The Hebrew writer tells us to “pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone

fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled,” Heb 12:14,15.

What Is Bitterness?

Our word “bitterness” is from the Greek word *pikria* (πικρία, Strong’s G4088), a word which is only found in four New Testament passages, Acts 8:23; Rom 3:14; Eph 4:31; Heb 12:15.

Arndt and Gingrich define *pikria* as “bitterness, animosity, anger, harshness,” (A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, p663). H.A.W. Meyer defines the word as “a bitter, malignant, and hostile disposition,” (Critical and Exegetical Handbook to the Epistle to the Acts of the Apostles, p172). Marvin Vincent defines it as a “bitter frame of mind,” (Word Studies In The New Testament, 3.397).

John Eadie says that *pikria* is “a figurative term denoting that

fretted and irritable state of mind that keeps a man in perpetual animosity—that inclines him to harsh and uncharitable opinions of men and things—that makes him sour, crabbed, and repulsive in his general demeanor—that brings a scowl over his face, and infuses venom into the words of his tongue,” (Commentary on the Epistle to the Colossians, p357).

Bitterness is a hostile disposition and a poisonous frame of mind that causes people to brood, scowl and become repulsive in demeanor.

What Causes Bitterness?

The basic cause of bitterness is sin and the guilt it produces. An individual with a guilty conscience often becomes bitter and repulsive.

Sin is at the root of the problem—sin leads to guilt and depression, and sinful handling of sin further complicates matters leading to greater guilt and deeper depression, for a wicked man will be “caught in the cords of his sin,” Prov 5:22.

The story of Cain illustrates the progression of sin. Cain began by giving a sinful offering, Gen 4:1–8. Abel gave his best, whereas Cain merely brought an offering. When God rejected the offering, Cain complicated the matter by responding wrongly—he got angry and depressed: his face “fell.” Cain’s anger was noted by God, who warned against the consequences

of this wrong response. God graciously said, “If you do well, will you not be accepted?” Or, as some translations say, “If you do right, you will feel right.”

God also warned Cain that failure to repent and offer the right kind of sacrifice would cause him to fall deeper into sin. The clutches of sin, like a wild animal, was crouching at the door and waiting to devour him. God offered hope by saying that he could reverse the spiral of rule over sin by breaking out of his sinful pattern through repentance and a subsequent change of behavior. Cain failed to heed God’s words and fell deeper into the depths of sin just as God said he would. His bitterness led him to murder Abel.

Sin leads to guilt and bitterness, and sinful handling of sin further complicates matters leading to greater guilt and deeper bitterness. Proverbs 26:23–26 describes people who harbor grudges, resentments and bitterness in their hearts. Sometimes they cover their resentment with an outer gloss of tranquility and graciousness, but finally the resentment will burst through. Outwardly they might seem respectable; outwardly they may appear responsible; but inwardly their heart is seethed with hate. Proverbs says that anger, hatred, resentment and bitterness bottled up within will give rise to half a dozen other problems—

“there are seven abominations in his heart.” The passage concludes with the warning that although for a time hatred can be covered, in time it “will be revealed before the assembly”—that is, the feelings

down underneath will be revealed.

In the second half of this article, the writer will discuss how to defeat bitterness, and how to deal with bitter people. 📖

Seeking for Righteousness

By Robert L. Craig

The Bible says in Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” A person who is really hungry will go to great lengths, even robbery, to satisfy that craving. I am told that one who is really thirsty will kill, if necessary, to fulfil that desire. I wouldn’t advocate such dire efforts as those mentioned to obtain righteousness but the Bible does say that we can obtain if the desire is great enough.

Righteousness had been defined as “being right with God,” and that will do for our discussion. Do you really want to be right in God’s sight? You can be but only if you have the appetite for it. It will come only by an honest, diligent and thoughtful search. Your search must begin and end with the Bible. Peter said in

1 Peter 2:2, “like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...” Jesus said in John 5:39, “You search the Scriptures... it is these that testify about Me...” The apostle Paul said in Acts 17:11, “...they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.” Don’t allow other people to do your searching.

Hear Paul once again. “Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written,” 1 Cor 4:6. I believe that I teach the truth. But don’t take my word for it. Search the scriptures to see if what I say harmonizes with Bible teaching. If it does, obey it. If it doesn’t, reject it. 📖

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. 📖