

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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“Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man, Or you will learn his ways And find a snare for yourself.”



— Proverbs 22:24,25

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 Two of Two, by David Padfield

The writer continues our discussion, having defined bitterness and identifying its causes in the previous half of this article....

Defeating Bitterness

You can either have your sins forgiven by the blood of Christ, or you can allow bitterness to destroy you.

Only one thing lifts the depressed spirit crushed by a load of sin: confession and forgiveness of sin! David’s “music therapy” did not help king Saul—it soothed him temporarily, but it did not change him, 1 Sam 16:23. Saul’s own attitudes and actions kept making his condition worse, as day by day he brooded with jealousy and resentment. Saul’s pride and self-centeredness affected every aspect of his life. The Scriptures do not attribute Saul’s madness to “sickness,” nor is his sin excused because he is considered mentally ill. Rather, his madness and his sin

are linked directly, 1 Sam 18:6–11.

What is the purpose of our preaching? “Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,” 1 Tim 1:5. The goal of our preaching is to bring men into a loving conformity to the law of God, and this in turn brings a clean conscience. Instead of excuse-making, the Bible advocates that you assume your responsibility, confess your sins and seek the wonderful forgiveness which is in Christ Jesus. A good conscience depends upon good behavior, 1 Pet 3:10,11.

Good lives come from good deeds. Good consciences come from good behavior. From his guilt, David cried out, “For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer,” Psa 32:4. It

was as if God's hand was crushing him. He believed his depression was from God and he considered it the merciful punishment of God warning him and leading him to repentance. David acknowledged his sin and sought forgiveness, Psa 32:5-7. David's forgiveness restored to him the joy of salvation, Psa 51:1-13. As Isaiah said, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon," Isa 55:7.

Dealing With Bitter People

We are warned to "make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways, and set a snare for your soul," Prov 22:24,25.

"When people get angry they often go through the day meditating on the cause of their anger. As this ruminating continues, the original causes are blown up into false proportions and anger increases, especially when critical people associate with other critical people and share their criticisms. In this way, some people develop a whole mind-set of negativism and bitterness which grows worse as they get older. This kind of thinking can be fun, at first, because it lets the thinker fantasize about his or

her own superiority. But since this thinking is destructive and harmful it must be resisted and replaced with thinking which is positive and less critical." (Gary R. Collins, Christian Counseling, p112).

Be careful, lest you become the object of their wrath. We need to be careful about those whom we allow to become our close friends, "for anger rests in the bosom of fools," Eccl 7:9. "Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him," Prov 29:20. And again, "An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression," Prov 29:22.

The principle is to associate closely with friends whose lives accord with the highest Biblical ethics.

King Ahab of Israel was an exceedingly evil man, 1 Kings 16:29-33. Ahab took Jezebel as his wife and set up an altar for Baal. Elijah was a faithful prophet of God and spoke out against Ahab. When Ahab met Elijah he accused Elijah of being guilty of sin, 1 Kings 18:17,18.


"Introductory textbooks in psychology often describe the common human tendency to blame innocent people when things are not going well. The man who is angry with his boss may stifle his anger at work (lest he be

fired), but he 'takes it out' on his wife or children at home in the evening because this is a safe place to ventilate. The family may not have caused the anger but they bear the brunt of the angry person's feelings. Anger is especially difficult to handle when we cannot identify who is to be blamed or when we cannot reach the person who created the situation. If inflation decreases our spending power, who do we blame? The grocer or drugstore manager may be charging higher prices but they alone are not responsible for inflation. If we decide that the real source of the problem rests with some government leader, this may be an aloof, distant person who is difficult to contact and never available to hear our anger and criticism. As a result, we verbally, physically, or cognitively attack some largely innocent but accusable person. Sometimes there may even be an illegal or criminal 'acting out' against innocent victims who nevertheless are part of the society." (Collins,

Christian Counseling, p107).

Conclusion

"All usefulness, and all comfort, may be prevented by an unkind, a sour, a crabbed temper of mind—a mind that can bear with no difference of opinion or temperament. A spirit of fault-finding; an unsatisfied temper; a constant irritability; little inequalities in the look, the temper, or the manner; a brow cloudy and dissatisfied will more than neutralize all the good you can do, and render life anything but a blessing. It is in such gentle and quiet virtues as meekness and forbearance, that the happiness and usefulness of life consist, far more than in brilliant eloquence, in splendid talent, or illustrious deeds, that shall send the name to future times." (Albert Barnes, Notes On The New Testament, 12.72)

If you are suffering from the sin of bitterness, or any other sin for that matter, there is hope, for "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," 1 Tim 1:15. 

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 this Friday (8/19); and Robert is

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