

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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"...Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Servants during September:**

Songleader: Peter (4), Stanley (11), Larry (18), Peter (25)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike M, Mike B, Stanley, Peter

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (7), Stanley (14), Kris (21), Larry (28)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (4), Marty (11), Stanley (18), Larry (25)

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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The Second Time Around

by Dee Bowman

Ah, the joy of something new! There's nothing quite like it. Some new product that works better than the old one. Some new way to get there faster. Some new fidelity to make it sound better. Some new wrench that works smoother. Some new machine that's stronger. Some new story that tickles your fancy. Some new drug that makes your health problems easier to bear. There's just something special about new stuff.

One of the best of all new things is new beginnings, the sheer joy of just being able to start over. I used to work math problems until I just got totally frustrated. In desperation, I'd wad the paper up, throw it at (notice, I said at) the trash can, and just start over again. A clean sheet of paper is a beautiful thing. It's just great to be able to start over.

You'll usually do it better the second time around.

Forgiveness makes possible the most beautiful of all new beginnings. Forgiveness means a new start, a new page, a new chapter to write. Forgiveness means that what was there before—sin with all its guilt—is no longer present; that sin—that which once blighted your character and distorted your view of things—is no longer present. It's gone. It's

been sent away. Never to return. It's like having a new sheet of paper.

When a person—one with faith and a penitent heart—is baptized into Christ, he becomes a new creature, a new creation, 1 Cor 12:13. His old person is taken away and he is made new, Rom 6:3-7. Paul talks about our becoming "new creatures in Christ." Hear him: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come," 2 Cor 5:17. In other words, when a man obeys the gospel of Christ, he becomes something entirely new, a new creation, one forgiven and clean, one totally devoid of his old sins. They've all been washed away. It's as if they never existed. What a joy to know that when God forgives, He forgets. It's the best of all new things, the first and most important of all new beginnings, forgiveness is.


But a new beginning is just that—a new beginning. Now you have to get on with this new life. There is learning to be done, corrections that need to be made in all your courses of life, new focuses to be engaged, new horizons to view, new determinations to be made, a new hope to embrace. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,

always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord," 1 Cor 15:58. We have to abound in the work of the lord, press on toward the goal, make certain about our calling and being chosen, work out our salvation, Phil 3:12-14; 2 Pet 1:10; Phil 2:12. The new beginning is just the start of all we now have to do.

Paul puts this new beginning into a proper focus when he says, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all

things to Himself. Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved," Phil 3:20-4:1. We're here in a probationary period, and we still have lots to think about, lots to do, before we get where we're going.

And so, it behooves each of us to make our new beginning all that it was intended to be. Let's be workers for the Lord. It's the only life that makes any sense. And it's the only way the new beginning can have any real worth in our lives.

As one fellow I know quite well once said, "If you miss heaven, you've just missed all there is." 

A Time for War...

by Roger Shouse

"...A time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace," Ecclesiastes 3:8.

Our verse today comes from Solomon's "seasons of life." There is a time for everything, he says. And, what follows is a series of couplets and opposites. Many of them we really enjoy, such as hugs, birth and love. And, many of the opposites, we dread, such as hate, war and death. Our focus today is on the ending of today's verse, "a time for war and a time for peace." As I write this, the war in Ukraine is entering yet another month. I think most people thought the war would be ended by this time. The events do not headline the nightly news anymore.

There needs to be some thought put into "a time for war." Solomon is writing generically. He doesn't identify if the war is between nations, families, ethnic groups or simply two co-workers who

can't get along. There is a time for war and there is a time for peace. When is there a time for war? When is it appropriate to launch into battle? And, Solomon doesn't identify what kind of war he has in mind. Physical war with soldiers? A war with words? A husband and wife who are having an argument? A mad teen who slams the door to her bedroom? Political skirmishes between candidates? Religious wars that we often call persecution?

There is a time for war. Here's some things to help us:

First, not every battle is my battle, nor should I fight in every battle. People tend to be involved in far too many things that are none of their business. Two co-workers who cannot get along explodes into the entire office taking sides, and people who once liked each other and got along well, now don't. This is true in families and true within the church.

Preachers can stick our noses in the business of other congregations and get ourselves involved in things that are not our battles. Staying out is hard. But one of the best things is to let the people involved work their differences out.

Second, when you are involved, do all that you can to make peace and avoid a war with others. That's the spirit of the New Testament. Blessed are the peacemakers, Jesus said. The Romans were told, "if possible, as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men." Among the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians is peace. Listed in Peter's characteristics of virtues are love and self-control. Some like to irritate. Some like to stir things up. Some just know how to push the right buttons and they do that all day long. It's like riding with your little brother in the back seat of the car. A touch becomes a poke, which becomes a pinch, which turns into a slap, which turns into a hit. About that time, dad has stopped the car and both get a spanking. Make peace when you can.


Third, lines must be drawn where God has established them. There are wars that need to be fought. There are battles that must take place. Standing for the integrity of Scriptures and God's pattern for things is one such battle. There are those who want to twist Scriptures, introduce new concepts, change the way of God and reinvent what the Lord has introduced. Doctrinally, morally, culturally—there are battles taking place. To sit on the sidelines because one doesn't like confrontations or the mess of wars is to allow the enemy

to take over.

Near where I live, Corydon, Indiana, there was a battle that took place during the Civil War. It was the only battle fought in Indiana. Morgan's Raiders came up from Kentucky into Indiana. As they approached little towns, they demanded horses, supplies and money. If they didn't get that, they would fight and destroy the town. Every town quietly and cowardly surrendered, except my Corydon. They put up a fight. Cannons were fired. Muskets were shot. Several on both sides died. In the end, the defenders of Corydon surrendered. But the delay it caused allowed Union troops to pursue and later capture most of Morgan's Raiders.

Just like Morgan's Raiders, Satan is trying to move in and take over. To surrender without a fight is to lack faith, courage and conviction. A person needs to fight for their marriage and not let the devil destroy it. Shepherds need to fight for the truth that is to be fed to the flock. Many a pied piper has fooled people with slick messages, fancy books and stealth-like motives. There is a time for war.

We sing, "Soldiers of Christ arise." Will we? Will we be ready? Will we engage the enemy for what is right? I fear that sometimes we fight, but we are fighting in the wrong wars. And what we ought to be fighting, we are not. Standing on the principles or sitting on the sidelines?

There is a time for war and a time for peace. Knowing what time it is makes all the difference. 

Remember in Prayer

Joyce is having a difficult struggle with cancer; pray fervently for her. Also, continue to pray for the Beddingfield's, the Emerson's, Carolyn Dennis and Dot Hice;

and we can rejoice that Pam McNatt is doing very well, and her husband, Steve, was baptized into Christ Saturday! 