

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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“Pride goes before
 destruction, and a
 haughty spirit before
 a fall,”

— Proverbs 16:18 ESV

**Servants during September/October:**

Songleader: Peter (9/25), Stanley (10/2),
 Larry (10/9), Peter (10/16), Stanley
 (10/23), Larry (10/30)

Reading: Larry (Sept); Mike B (Oct)

Announcements: Marty (Sept); Stanley
 (Oct)

Table: Mike M, Mike B, Stanley, Peter
 (Sept); Larry, Marty, Mike M, Peter (Oct)

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (9/28),
 Stanley (10/5), Kris (10/12),
 Larry (10/19), Stanley
 (10/26)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):
 Larry (9/25), Kris (10/2),
 Marty (10/9), Stanley
 (10/16), Larry (10/23), Kris
 (10/30)

Hays Mill church of Christ

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 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 5

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Number 19

Things My Mama Said

by Dee Bowman

“If you fall out of that tree and break your neck, I’m gonna wear you out!” Sometimes we don’t think before we go out on some limb. It’s foolish to be where we don’t belong, even if it’s a bit exciting. “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall,” Prov 16:18 ESV.

“If you can’t be happy, you can at least smile while you’re not.” That may seem like an oxymoron, even patently foolish, but it’s just good advice. Fact is, even when you’re upset or discouraged, a smile can bring a measure of relief, both to yourself and to others. “A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken,” Prov 15:13. How about a smile, now?

“You aren’t going out and make your mother ashamed, are you?” Solomon said, “A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother,” Prov 10:1. You can’t do wrong without a poor influence being exerted. It behooves every one of us to consider how the Father feels when we deliberately do things that are wrong.

“If you can’t say something nice, maybe you shouldn’t say anything at all.” How often we retaliate with some verbal outburst against someone with whom we

disagree, or someone we just plain don’t like. What progress is it? What is gained by it? “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense,” Prov 19:11 ESV. I’ve finally learned that sometimes the best defense is no offense at all.

“You kids get out of this house; and don’t slam the door!” Rules are part of life; and rules-keeping is what progress is all about. How many times have you heard your Mom or Dad tell you to be in at a certain time (and don’t slam the door!), or how often have you heard last minute instructions that have become almost boring because you’ve heard them so often? Because they are familiar, does that make them any less true? Actually, God’s rules don’t change and we would do well to pay careful attention when He says, “don’t slam the door!” “Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future,” Prov 19: 20.

“You’re gonna finish your plate before you go out and play.” How often has a great plan failed for a lack of perseverance. If it’s any good, it’s worth working for. If it’s any good, it’s worth finishing. How many times little difficulties have rescinded our efforts and

halted our enthusiasm. “The sluggard says, ‘There is a lion outside; I will be killed in the streets!’” Prov 22:13.

“This hurts me more than it hurts you.” I never understood that—it was the seat of my pants that were on fire. It didn’t seem to hurt her at all. Not until I saw a tear in her eye a few minutes later did I understand what she meant. Then one day, I was about to spank one of the kids and I caught myself saying, “This hurts me more than it hurts you.” Spare the rod and spoil the child... “Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him,” Prov 13:24 ESV.


“You better shape up or I’m gonna tell your daddy on you.” There is someone to which we must answer. That’s so even regarding the smallest things. As I’m wont to say, we need to “be wise small.” Actually, Mom didn’t have to tell the Father; he knew already. “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good,” Prov 15:3.

“Can’t you hear me? Listen, I’m talking to you.” We so often don’t hear because we don’t want to. We don’t listen because it gets in the way of what we want to do. It’s very foolish to make a habit of not listening—especially to vital things. “Whoever ignores instruction

despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence,” Prov 15:32 ESV.

“You’re not going to wear those socks to church; they’ve got holes in them.” It is just so that every man must examine himself. If we will, we’ll often see that we have a hole in some of our socks; that we need to be careful what we wear out in public. It’s a serious matter to allow one’s dirty or mismatched socks to delay his progress, or restrict his coming to the Lord. Oh, to see ourselves as He does. We are too often prone to self-justification, even self-forgiveness. “Who can say, ‘I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin?’” Prov 20:9 ESV.

“I still love you—even when your pants are dirty and you look like you haven’t washed your face in a week.” “Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles,” Prov 24:17. True love learns patience. True love looks past imperfections, little warts, a little dirt on the face. That doesn’t mean that a person who loves tolerates sin; it means he tolerates the sinner, having had a little dirt on his face, too. What love God has manifested to us! What love has His Son Jesus shown in embracing us in all our dirtiness?

I love you, Mom. 

The ‘Check Engine’ Light

by Michael Cawthon

Warning signs are everywhere. Road signs prepare drivers for the potential of pedestrians crossing the street, icy bridges, curvy roads and falling rock. Computers within some vehicles inform when the tire pressure is too low, how many miles you have left before running

out of gas and when you need to check your engine.

For some lights that flash on, the manual is needed to correctly interpret what the designer of the car intended the operator to do to fix the potential problem. While there are safety

requirements and laws that are meant to protect the driver and passengers in the vehicle, one might assume all of those warnings are just to get us in the shop where they can tell us how much we owe to fix all of these issues. Just the other day the check engine light came on in my van. This was after I had taken it in for an oil change the week before. I called the dealership and asked them the reason that light could be on after getting a service. The “sales”—I mean service—agent informed me of several potential problems the van might have, but concluded that the person who performed the oil change simply forgot to reset the warning light.

Don’t you wish we had lights and buzzers that went off when we might be in danger spiritually? Maybe a “low encouragement” sensor and a “go to the Lord in prayer soon” blinking light would be nice. We could place a sticker on ourselves that reads, “Next worship service in 3 days or first day of the week, whichever comes first.” An annoying buzzer would be appropriate when we leave our armor off (Ephesians 6).

While the technology might not quite be there for us spiritually, the Lord did give us plenty of warning signals. We need to pay attention to them.

Elders: “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give

account,” Heb 13:17.

Brethren: “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted,” Gal 6:1.


Preachers: “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you,” 1 Tim 4:16.

Our study habits: “...searched the Scriptures daily...” Acts 17:11.

Our prayer life: “...pray without ceasing,” 1 Thess 5:17.

Our attendance: “...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,” Heb 10:25.

Some people can drive their car for weeks while a check engine light is on and simply ignore it. The automobile may not break down the next day or even the following week, but damage is being done that will be evident sooner or later. We can also ignore those who are trying to help us spiritually. Continuing to skip our spiritual meals, prayer time and avoid brethren may not be a big deal to some. But for certain, damage is being done (Our example is fading, our strength is waning and we are becoming calloused).

A warning light in our vehicles is meant to alert us to the problem, not fix it. Likewise, the spiritual warning signs do not fix the issue. We must individually do something about it before it is too late. 

Remember in Prayer

Joyce continues to deal with her cancer; she will have treatments on her throat for the next several weeks. Pam has shingles; please pray for both her and Buddy. Continue to pray for Carolyn

Dennis, the Emerson’s, and Dot Hice.

Please pray also for our brethren throughout the world, those that lead them spiritually, and those preaching the gospel. 