

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:

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**”

— Ecclesiastes 12:13



Servants during October:

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

Reading: Mike B

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Marty, Mike M, Peter

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (5), Kris (12), Larry (19), Stanley (26)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

Kris (2), Marty (9), Stanley (16), Larry (23), Kris (30)

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 5

October 23, 2022

Number 23

KILL THE UMPIRE!

by Andy Diestelkamp

*From the benches, black with people,
there went a muffled roar,
Like the beating of the storm-waves
on a stern and distant shore;
‘Kill him! Kill the umpire!’ shouted
someone on the stand.
And it’s likely they’d have killed him
had not Casey raised his hand.*

Baseball has been called the national pastime, and it has amply demonstrated its ability to grab the attention and passions of its spectators. I enjoy the game. While I am an avid Cubs fan, I have greatly enjoyed watching my son play at the Little League level.

We have all heard of the perennial problems with the behavior of parents at Little League games. I am happy to report, that I saw little of those problems this year. However, those stereotypical problems are not

urban legends. In past years I have witnessed and experienced those who fit these stereotypes. A few years ago at the Peanut League level, I had the unparalleled pleasure of being called a “jerk” by the father of someone on the opposing team, because he imagined that I had intentionally interfered with the play in my feeble coaching efforts at third.

I have also had the opportunity to sit in the stands at a Pony League game and hear parents rail on the umpire. Oh, sure, we have all reacted negatively to the bad calls inevitably made by umpires, but some of these parents are like pit bulls and won’t let go even several innings later. Such loose-lipped parents got me to thinking and analyzing. If this is our treatment of an authority figure that we can see, then no wonder people

question God, who they cannot see, 1 Jn 4:20.

People are not hesitant to challenge and question authority. At the Pony League game one man literally had a comment about every pitch. If the call was negative for his team, then he had only bad things to say about the umpire. Often there was a chorus of mothers agreeing with him. It is apparent that for some people the umpire is not the object of their respect, but someone to vent on when things don't go well.


I can't help but believe that many see God the same way. They sit in the stands of life constantly questioning Him and railing on Him, when things don't go the way they think they should. Recall when King David moved the Ark of the Covenant in an unlawful way, and Uzzah ended up dying for touching the Ark in an attempt to steady it, 2 Sam 6:6-8. David was angry with God, when he should have been angry with himself.

Isn't it interesting how the umpire, who makes possible an orderly and far more enjoyable level of play, becomes the object of our scorn rather than the object of our appreciation? It is amusing how we

want him there behind the plate, but then think we have a clearer view of the game from our seat in the stands. Unlike human umpires, God is never out of position. He always makes the right call. Still, we sit in our seats with our limited view and question the One who can see it all.

Why do people act this way at a game or in life? Because of pride and prejudice. It is pride that keeps many from being willing to submit to any authority, let alone the authority of the unseen God. God warns that "pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall," Prov 16:18.

Prejudice enables people to find fault with others without applying the same standard to themselves, Rom 2:1-11; Jas 2:8-11. We want a wide strike zone when we're pitching and a narrow one when we're batting, and we complain if it's any other way.

Life is not a game, but some certainly approach it that way. How easy it is to lose our perspective of what is most important. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man," Eccl 12:13. 

man, the very antithesis of his brother Ned. John was the town drunkard; Ned was an elder in the church, patiently doing what he could to care for John's neglected family, and uphold the family name. The preacher felt that the contrast of the two lives was so well understood, even by the family, that any attempt to gloss John's sinful life with funeral oratory would be inexcusable hypocrisy, so he chose a direct and factual course.

"Now we all know the kind of man John was, and our sympathy for his family cannot change the truth. He cheated many of you in business, and drank up or gambled away the money that should have gone to his family. He was selfish, ugly-tempered, and a terrible—" The preacher paused as he noticed a man in the audience wave his hand in a "shhhh" signal, and shake his head negatively. But the preacher was determined to persist in the course he had started.


He continued, "John had no time to serve the Lord. He made no

preparations for death or judgment—" By now the man in the audience was waving frantically, so he stopped and addressed the objector: "Well, Sir, if you have something good to say for the deceased John, say on."

"I have nothing good to say for John," the man replied. "But John ain't deceased. He's sitting over there with the family, and the man in the coffin is Ned."

If my informant is correct, the preacher kept his cool, and turning to the family said, "I'm very sorry about this; but John, you should realize that this is the way an honest preacher would have to preach your funeral, unless you change your ways."


It makes a better story to stop two paragraphs back; but here I am, wondering what happened to John. You see, I take these Kentucky stories seriously. I'm also wondering if that preacher was ever invited to preach another funeral in that section.

—Originally titled "Stuff About Things," *Plain Talk*, Nov 1971 

Remember in Prayer

Joyce continues to deal with her cancer. **Hazel's son-in-law, Shane Reed**, is undergoing chemotherapy in Birmingham for Leukemia. **Betty** is waiting to hear from her doctor about another spot in her leg; and **Robert** still seems to be having bouts with his heart. Continue to pray for the

Beddingfields, Carolyn Dennis and **Dot Hice**.

Please also pray for John Pollard and his wife Sylvia, who work with the church in Germantown, Maryland; not only is the work there difficult, but they are expecting their firstborn in just a few weeks. 

Nothing Good to Say...

by Robert F. Turner

This story came right out of the heart of my native Kentucky...

A well-known preacher of the past generation was hurriedly called

to preach the funeral of one of two brothers. He had known the two men well in past years; and knew John to be an irresponsible sinful