

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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“In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...”

— Ephesians 1:11

**Servants during December:**

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

Reading: Stanley

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike M, Mike B, Larry, Peter

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

Meetings: Eastside in Athens, Dec 11, 3pm, Nick Woods; Eastside in Athens, Dec 18, 3pm, Norm Webb, Jr.; South Cullman, Jan 13-15, 3pm, Reagan McClenny

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 Memory of the Righteous

by Matthew W. Bassford

Proverbs 10:7 reads, “The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.” It neatly sums up what is left of my earthly aspirations. My life is so reduced that the usual distractions don’t matter much to me anymore, but my reputation has become even more important.

This is particularly true with respect to my children. Without the direct intervention of God, I will not live long enough to shepherd them to adulthood. I will only be able to help them through their memories and the memories of others. I want them to remember a father who loved God, loved others, and died with faith and courage. For decades to come, I want them to encounter people who will speak well of me.

However, every earthly desire brings with it earthly vulnerability, and this is no exception. I can control what my children see of me, but I can’t control what they think of me. It may be that in adulthood, they decide that I was

misguided or even actively harmful in the things I proclaimed.

My influence over those outside of my household is even less. Faithful commitment to God does not protect me from distortion and slander. I have been attacked because I adhere to the Bible’s teaching about the role of women in the church and the practice of homosexuality. Some have not hesitated to accuse me of being bigoted and hateful, even though I detect no animosity toward anyone in myself.

Additionally, God holds me responsible for speaking hard truths not only to outsiders but also to His own. The prophets primarily called Israel and Judah to repentance, not the nations. If I only say the things that I know will be popular and well received by other Christians, I join the ranks of the false prophets.


This does not require outright false teaching (though it often leads to such), merely a diplomatic silence about sin inside the camp. Indeed, as long as I confine my condemnations to the

people who won't be reading them, I will gain a reputation for "telling it like it is". The Pharisees had such a reputation, I believe.

Conversely, if I follow those who are scorned and vilified even by God's people, I will find myself in good company. Of course, this begins with the Lord Himself. He was perfect. He literally never did a single thing wrong. However, rather than winning a good reputation for Himself in the Jewish nation, He was rejected and murdered.

Much the same thing happened to the apostle Paul. Even though he served

God as faithfully as he knew how, he aroused such hatred among his countrymen that they followed him around, sometimes for hundreds of miles, to slander him further. When the Romans finally killed him, I would imagine that the majority reaction ranged from relief to joy.

Loyalty to God does not ensure a blessed memory on earth. Sometimes it ensures the opposite. However, even if everyone on earth scorns my name, that loyalty guarantees that He will not. If God remembers, it doesn't matter if everyone else forgets. 

The Devil's inoculation

by Dee Bowman

I was watching a ball game the other night. Between innings a commercial came on in which a man was asked by his wife, "Do I look fat in this dress?" He replied, "Yes, you do." The answer had a catastrophic effect. She bawled—and I don't mean she cried—she bawled, everywhere they went. Then they reversed the idea, having him answer when she asked if she looked fat in the dress, "Honey, you look fantastic."

The "wise" conclusion he reached contained a line that graphically depicts how far we have descended in our moral judgments. The tag line on the commercial said—and I quote it verbatim, "A man knows that peace is more important than the truth."

How sad. How utterly sad!

The world sneaks up on you. It never invites you into the slime pits of sin, it

merely gives you little shots of carnality so that you are soon inoculated against spiritual things and give little notice to them. And it all happens almost without your knowing it. It would be interesting to know just how many people were actually horrified by the tag line on that commercial. Far too few, I suspect.

And I know what you're thinking—"It can't happen to me, I won't be influenced by such thinking." That's another tool of the devil. "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall," 1 Cor 10:12. He knows how to make slight deviations from the truth attractive, or in this case, so unnoticeable that after a time you come to tolerate them almost without thinking. He builds up a kind of carnal immunity.

Television and the internet are wonderful when they are used with discretion. But when they become the main entity in our lives they can have a devastating effect. We need some moderation, people. How long since you actually turned the television off because you were turned off by the television? We can't afford to let these media conveniences dominate our thinking or we are apt to be led away—almost without knowing it.

Truth is not elastic. You can't just move it around to fit whatever you want it to fit. You have to manage your thinking in a strict adherence to what is right and make your decisions accordingly.


"Buy truth, and do not sell it," Prov 23:23a. There is no simpler way to put it. Truth has high value. It's worth the keeping. In fact, without it there can be no real peace. The peace that really matters comes from using truth to make wise choices, no matter how difficult, not choosing as the commercial says "peace is more important than truth." That is not so!

Paul speaks of the devil's deceit, bound in "...all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a

deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness," 2 Thess 2:10-12.

That, my friends, is an apt description of the television commercial we just described. And do you know what's really sad? It works. Far too often, it works.

Sadly, there are dozens of other commercials like the one we just described. And our fragmented thinking, produced by our taking in only little sketches of worldliness and carnality at a time, can cause us to eventually find truth to be little more than a mere suggestion, certainly not any sort of restriction.

What bothers me most is how this kind of "smallism thinking" is affecting our young people. If we are not careful, we will allow them to believe that what they see on television and what they see on Facebook, and what they text (sometimes without the least bit of moral restraint) is normal, just the way life is, and that we needn't worry about it. And it may be the way life is today—but we don't have to let them be vaccinated with small shots of it so that they either ignore it, or just look the other way. 

Remember in Prayer

Joyce continues to wrestle with cancer. **Hazel's son-in-law, Shane Reed**, is still dealing with Leukemia. Both the **Beddingfields** are undergoing various trials. **Betty** has been hospitalized for

several days, apparently due to side-effects from her cancer medication. Please continue to remember **Carolyn Dennis** and **Dot Hice**. 