

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
*Speaker, Kris Vilander*  
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

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“...I do not seek  
 My own will, but  
 the will of Him  
 who sent Me,”

—John 5:30b

**Servants during February:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (5), Larry (12), Peter (19), Stanley (26)

**Reading:** Mike B

**Announcements:** Stanley

**Table:** Peter, Larry, Mike M, Marty

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (1), Stanley (8), Kris (15), Larry (22)

**Meetings:** Jackson Drive, Mar 5-10,

E.R. Hall; **Hwy 157 Cullman**, Mar 5-8, Jarred McCrary; **Ardmore**, Mar 12-15, Lowell Sallee;

**Anderson**, Mar 12-15, Drew

Edwards; **South Cullman**, Mar 19-22, J.R. Bronger; **Bethel (TN)**, each Monday 7pm, Series: How we Got the Bible, Scott Richardson

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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# The Bible . Examiner

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

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# Lukewarmness

by M. W. Bassford

Lukewarmness among the people of God is hardly a new problem. Malachi warned against apathy explicitly, and signs of apathy are evident as far back as the Exodus. Unsurprisingly, preachers today also often warn their hearers about the dangers of indifference.

I read one such warning recently, and it led me to consider my own heart. I searched for signs of lukewarmness, and I found none. I still have plenty of spiritual problems, but lack of emotional commitment to God is not on the list. I am blessed to be a member of a congregation with good preaching and good singing, but even if the preaching were amateurish and the singing cringeworthy, I would be determined to assemble faithfully for as long as I was physically capable of so doing.

My motivation is simple just as my life is simple. Thanks to ALS,\* I have no options remaining but to trust in Jesus. He is the branch that can keep

me from going over the cliff. Without Him, I am utterly ruined and hopeless.

These are familiar sentiments. We sing many hymns about our need for Christ and our helplessness without Him. The problem is that while we give intellectual assent to these concepts, we don't really get them. I know I didn't before my diagnosis. It's the difference between the abstract acknowledgement that seatbelts save lives and the realization that your seatbelt just kept you from being launched into the path of an oncoming eighteen-wheeler.

Such abstraction provides fertile soil for the growth of indifference. The less we gut-get our absolute need for Jesus, the more likely we are to be apathetic in our worship and service.

I was pretty impressed with myself for figuring this out until I realized that the apostle John had gotten there 2000 years before I did. In Revelation 3:18, he rebukes the Laodiceans, “For you say, ‘I'm rich; I

have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked." Their lukewarmness started with their conviction of self-sufficiency.

Too often, spiritual apathy leads us to expect less of ourselves and demand more from others. On the one hand, it excuses our sporadic attendance (especially at Bible class), tolerance of sin, and halfhearted worship and service. On the other, it leads us to find fault in the contributions of others.

We would attend more, if only the preaching were more interesting. We would have an easier time worshipping if only the song leader chose our favorites. We would associate more with Christians instead of the worldly friends who are dragging us off to destruction if only the Christians made a special effort to include us. All this is to say nothing of how much better things would be if only the elders listened to us!


Thoughts like these are not an excuse for complaining or bad behavior. Instead, they are an urgent call to examine our own hearts. We do not fuss over details when we are rock-solid convinced that Christ is all that stands between us and eternal damnation. When we've had a massive heart attack and are on the way to the ER in an ambulance, we do not grumble that the paramedic has

bad breath!

Instead, we start griping when we believe that we are in control and the other is dependent on us. We have no problem sending back an overcooked steak at a restaurant because we know the manager is afraid of losing our business, so he will accommodate us. He needs us more than we need him.

So too with a lukewarm, exacting attitude toward the things of God. The assembly is not a product, and Christians are not consumers. It is not the job of the elders, the worship leaders, or our brethren to cater to our every whim, to make sure that everything is just so before we deign to become emotionally involved. We are wretched supplicants before the throne of the great King, and we need to act like it.

If we find Christianity tiresome, we have no one to blame but ourselves. The issue is not that some Christians need God more than others; it is that some acknowledge that need more than others. The cure for the disease is not everybody else getting their act together; it is time spent in meditation and prayer about our desperate need for Christ and how much He has done for us. When we recognize the magnitude of our debt to Him, the imperfection of others can neither stifle our devotion nor prevent us from expressing it.

*\*The author of this article suffers from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). *

## If Only...

by Frank Himmel

If only my boss wouldn't be so rude and domineering, I would try harder and be more cooperative at work. "Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable," 1 Pet 2:18.

If only my husband weren't so lazy and self-centered, and would treat me like I deserve, I would go back and live with him. "...wives, be submissive to your husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior," 1 Pet 3:1,2.


If only people would quit taking advantage of me, I would maintain a better disposition. "To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead," 1 Pet 3:8,9.

If only the brethren were friendlier and that preacher not so dry, I would go to church more often. "...let us consider

how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." Heb 10:24,25.

If only I had more income and fewer bills, I would give a lot more. "...in the churches of Macedonia ...in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality," 2 Cor 8:1,2.

If only my family would be more supportive, I would become a Christian. "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me..." Mt 10:37.

Do you notice that what God expects of us, He expects regardless of our particular circumstances? Instead of excusing ourselves due to adverse conditions, let us commit ourselves to our Creator and Benefactor. If only we would be like Jesus, who said, "...I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me," Jn 5:30. He not only said it, He lived it—even to the point of death. 

## Remember in Prayer

**John and Sylvia Pollard's newborn, Paige** suffered a setback during surgery, but the procedure is expected to be completed in a couple weeks; **John's mother, Sharon** awaits tests regarding heart failure.

**Joyce Smith** still deals with cancer.

**Buddy Beddingfield** is in rehab (rm 119) to gain strength. **Betty's** broken finger is healing. **Cody Scott** passed away earlier last week; please pray for his parents. Please continue to pray for **Carolyn Dennis** and **Dot Hice**. 