

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
 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

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

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“If anyone comes to Me,  
 and does not hate his own  
 father and mother and wife  
 and children and brothers  
 and sisters, yes, and even  
 his own life, he cannot be  
 My disciple,”

— Luke 14:26

**Servants during May:**

**Songleader:** Larry (7), Peter (14),  
 Stanley (21), Larry (28)

**Reading:** Stanley

**Announcements:** Marty

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

**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (3), Kris  
 (10), Larry (17), Stanley (24), Kris  
 (31)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Larry  
 (7), Kris (14), Marty (21), Stanley (28)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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 Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

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

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# Creation and Resurrection

by M. W. Bassford

The primary objection to the resurrection accounts of the Bible is philosophical. It is based on the theory of naturalism. This theory holds that all events have causes rooted in the natural laws of the universe. In the universe, dead people don't naturally come back to life, so Jesus, if dead, could not have risen from the dead. People who think this way are unwilling to consider the evidence for the resurrection because it leads to a conclusion that they think is impossible.

Naturalism is really an assumption. Rather than being based on evidence, it is used to evaluate evidence. As a rule, it leads to dismissing the very accounts that could be used to overturn it.

However, there is one conspicuous exception to the rule. It is the origin of the universe itself. Over the past century, scientists have come to recognize that the universe had a beginning. Before (although that's not really the right word) the Big Bang, neither space nor time existed. After it, the space-time reality did.

In other words, there was something antecedent to the universe through which the universe came into being. Whatever this cause was, it was, by definition, outside of the universe. The universe didn't create itself, after all! That pre-universe event didn't follow the natural laws of space-time reality. It made the natural laws of space-time reality.

Scientists have come up with a variety of speculative, science-like explanations for this. Some say it has to do with string theory and the interaction of strange physical objects called branes. Others posit the existence of a “mother universe” that goes around spawning “daughter universes”. Still others claim that every universe that is mathematically possible does exist, and we are in the good one with the physical constants that allow for life.

All of these explanations have several things in common. There is no

evidence for any of them. They are untestable. They are unprovable. None of them correspond with a naturalistic view of the universe because all of them are, strictly speaking, supernatural.

The supernatural does exist. The existence of everything from stars to toenails proves it. If the supernatural made our physical universe, there is no reason to dismiss the possibility that it might intervene in our physical universe too.

If creation, why not resurrection?



# What About Those You Love?

*by Harold Hancock*

Do you hesitate to be baptized for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38; 22:16; or even to admit that the scriptures teach that you should be baptized to be saved, 1 Pet 3:21, because your parents or some other loved ones have failed to do so and because you are concerned about their spiritual welfare? If so, you may be risking your eternal salvation while doing nothing to enhance their eternal destiny.

It is natural for you to be

concerned about the spiritual welfare of your parents or other loved ones. You must realize, however, that your obedience can neither save your loved ones nor condemn them to hell. God will fairly judge each person according to their own works and according to His word, 2 Cor 5:10; Jn 12:48. Hence, Paul said, “For every man shall bear his own burden,” Gal 6:5.

What does love, honesty, and true devotion to God demand when you

learn truths that are different from what you once believed and from what your family and close friends believe and practice? If you learn “the way of God more perfectly,” that is, learn more about God’s will than you knew before, does not honesty and true devotion demand that you change and obey the Word of the Lord just as Apollos did when he was taught “the way of God more perfectly,” Acts 18:26? And would not parents or loved ones who are honest and truly devoted to God expect a loved one who has learned “the way of God more perfectly” to obey the commands of God—even the command of baptism? To suggest otherwise would cast reflection upon and question the honesty and devotion of your loved ones.

You have no opportunity to teach “the way of God more perfectly” to loved ones who are dead. They will meet the Lord as they were when they died, however honest and just they were, and with the choices they made while on earth. Your obedience or disobedience will not change their eternal destiny, only yours. Do not be so concerned with judging the dead

that you fail to walk wherein you have attained, Phil 3:16, or fail to preach the gospel to the living.

If your parents or loved ones are still alive, you may still have opportunity to teach them “the way of God more perfectly.” If they are truly devoted to the Lord, they want all of the truth, Mt 4:4. It is very unlikely you will ever teach them “the way of God more perfectly” if you do not admit truth and obey it yourself.

You must remember, also, that while you love your parents and/or others here on earth, you must love Christ more and put Him first, or you cannot be His disciple, Lk 14:26; Mt 6:33. You will be judging yourself “unworthy of everlasting life,” Acts 13:46, if you allow your love for others to keep you from obeying God.

Love God with all of your heart, soul, and mind, Mt 22:37, and obey Him at all costs; do not be ashamed of His gospel, but share it with those whom you love. By doing so, you will save yourself, cause no loved one to be lost, and save those loved ones who will “hear” you, 1 Tim 4:16. Do not wait; be baptized for the remission of sins to be saved!

## *Remember in Prayer*

Please continue to remember **Betty; Buddy; Carolyn; Dot; Joyce;**

**Mike Beckman; and John and Sylvia Pollard’s newborn, Paige.**