### **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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"But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us."

— Romans 8:37



#### Servants during July:

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

**Reading:** Peter

Announcements: Larry

**Table:** Mike M, Marty, Stanley, Larry **Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (5), Kris (12),

Larry (19), Stanley (26)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Larry

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

Larry (30)

*Meetings:* Eastside (Red Bay), July 9-14, Wes Brown; Russellville, July 9-14,

Don Miller; Danville Road, July 15-

19, Grady Huggins

### **Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible o "Examine everything carefully..." –1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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# Thinking of Quitting?

by Bill Hall

No doubt, someone will read this article who is discouraged, weary of struggling, disappointed in his brethren, facing severe obstacles in his service to the Lord, and is in danger of quitting. But I would make this appeal: "Before you quit, look anew at the incentives the Lord holds before you; look again at heaven."

Heaven means victory—victory in the strife with Satan and his allies. The battle is sometimes hard; the foe is formidable. Our own strength seems so small. We become discouraged. But lift our eyes! On our side is the Lord, the One who has already won the battle, Gen

3:15. With His aid we can be victorious. We can be "more than conquerors through Him who loved us," Rom 8:37.

Heaven means beauty unsurpassed beauty—a street of gold, walls of jasper, a foundation of precious stones, gates of pearl, a crystal clear river flowing from the throne of God.

Heaven means home— Happiness is not found in our material surroundings, but in being with those we love. We experience homesickness, but our homesickness is not for a house or anything material, but for wife and children, for loved ones. Similarly, we speak of the beauty of heaven, and truly its beauty enhances our anticipation, but surely the greatest joy will be found in being with our Lord, the One "whom having not seen [we] love," and with our God, with the Spirit, with the angels, and with the redeemed of all ages. This will be our eternal homecoming.

Heaven means happiness— There will be nothing there to mar our happiness. There will be no more tears, no more sickness, no more heartache, no more death, "nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away," Rev 21:4.

Heaven means holiness—Never again will we hear the name of our Lord taken in vain. There will be no more adultery, filth, guilt, murder, crime. Truth will abound. There will be no more lying, deceit, flattery, hypocrisy. Women will no longer

have to fear those who would abuse and desecrate them. Love will be pure and unfeigned. The Lord assures us, "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life," Rev 21:27.

Heaven means eternity—This blessed state shall never end. "When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun," (Joseph Scriven). You can quit if you so choose, for God will not force anyone to serve Him. But, remember, the day you quit is the day you forfeit all hope of eternal happiness and choose in its place eternal damnation. And eternity is a long time.

— via **Two Men**, 1998 p102,103 🕮

## Considering the Outcome

by Bill Hall

We have no sympathy for those who at every funeral "preach the dead right on into heaven," who ignore the obvious failure on the part of the deceased to serve the Lord, who try to think that all will somehow get to heaven in spite of their disobedience. There is a hell, and the many of this earth (in contrast to the few) are going there, Mt 7:13,14.

But we must not allow one extreme to beget another. While the majority will be lost, there are those in this world whose single purpose in life is to serve the Lord and go to heaven when they die; who devote themselves daily to studying God's word and living by its precepts. When such people die it is right to speak of their good life and faithfulness to the

Lord; it is right to hold out hope to their loved ones; it is right to commend their example of faithfulness and perseverance to those who may be discouraged; it is right to speak of their eternal reward.

The Hebrew writer stated it this way: "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith," Heb 15:7, NASB. Three things are implied in this verse: (1) There had been men in their midst who had served the Lord faithfully unto death. (2) The Hebrew Christians were to be confident that the outcome of the lives of those men was a happy one. (3) Considering this, they were to imitate their faith.

We, like the Hebrews, have had the good fortune of knowing many who have lived godly lives and have now passed on to their reward. Some were elders; some were preachers; some were Bible class teachers; others were just good, faithful, dependable disciples of the Lord who placed His kingdom first in their lives. We are not speaking of the lukewarm and indifferent. We are not speaking

of those who claim to be Christians, but were lacking in the fruits of Christianity. We are speaking of the truly dedicated ones who constantly reflected the character of their Father and their Lord Jesus Christ. Their influence on our lives was tremendous. They were men and women of whom this world was not worthy. And the list grows with each passing year.

Every one of these had to overcome serious obstacles to be faithful to the Lord. The Devil challenged each one of them, but he failed. They gained the victory through Christ. Now they are eternally happy because they persevered. Could we ask any one of them, "Was it worth it?" his reply immediately would be, "It was a thousand times worth it!" Not one of them regrets a single moment he spent in the Lord's service.

We thank God for such people. We rejoice in their salvation. We look on their passing not as those "who have no hope." And "considering the result of their conduct," we dedicate ourselves to imitating their faith.

— via **Two Men**, 1998 p104,105 🕮

### » Remember in Prayer«

Buddy's sister, Vivian, and Marie's sister, Kathleen, both passed away earlier this week. Marty has been having issues with diabetes. Emily's baby is due in

another week or so!

Please remember Betty; Buddy and Pam; Carolyn; Dot; John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard; Joyce; and Mike Beckman.