

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 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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“I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish,”

—Luke 13:3

**Servants during August:**

Songleader: Peter (6), Stanley (13), Larry (20), Peter (27)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Stanley, Mike M, Peter, Marty

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (2), Larry (9), Stanley (16), Kris (23), Larry (30)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (6), Marty (13), Stanley (20), Larry (27)

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 Passover Lamb and Baptism

by Matthew W. Bassford

The story of the first Passover is familiar to most of us. In Exodus 12, Moses instructs the Israelites to take an unblemished male lamb, slaughter it, eat it as part of a ritual meal, and apply its blood to the doorposts and lintels of their houses.

This strange ceremony had a vital purpose. God was going to send a destroying angel throughout the land of Egypt, and he would kill the firstborn of both men and animals in each house. The angel would pass over only the houses that were marked with blood.

There are several elements to this story that are worth noting. The first is that the coming catastrophe would be universal. God did not single out the firstborn of the Egyptians for doom. Instead, unless some action were taken, every

house would be visited by the destroyer.

God did not intend for His people to face this destruction. However, He did not automatically spare them either. Instead, He gave them instructions that, if followed, would turn aside the destroyer. If the Israelites did not follow those instructions, their firstborn would perish along with those of the Egyptians.

Following those instructions had no intrinsic merit. The destroyer did not approach the houses of the Israelites and say, “Wow! I am so impressed with the artistic application of that blood! I could never destroy the firstborn of such gifted people!” The blood was effective for only one reason, because God had decreed that it would be. Even though the Israelites

had to act, they still were saved not by their actions, but by His mercy.


All of these things are true of baptism under the covenant of Christ. We too are faced with universal catastrophe. On the Day of Judgment, the condemnation of God will not be limited only to Hitler and the other really, really bad people. Instead, every sinner will face it, and all of us have sinned. Unless we act, all of us are headed to the fires of hell.

God desires not to destroy us but to save us. However, salvation does not come automatically. As He did for the Israelites, He has given us instructions that we must follow. The Scriptures teach that we are forgiven of our sins when we are immersed in water in the name of Jesus. Unless we are baptized, we will perish.

Like the blood on the doorposts, baptism has no intrinsic merit. It is

not a good work that convinces God that we deserve eternal life. Rather, baptism saves only because God has said that it saves. As with belief, repentance, and confession, it is one of the conditions that we must fulfill before God will extend His mercy. We are rescued not by magic water, but by a gracious Creator.

We understand how foolish it would have been for the Israelites to refuse to apply the blood yet loudly proclaim their confidence that God would save them. Sadly, millions today make the same mistake with baptism, and if we follow their example, we will lose our souls.

However, if we act in faith as the Israelites did, we too will be rescued by the mercy of God. How marvelous it is that He has provided so great a salvation for us, and how tragic it would be for any of us to reject it! 

Do We Find Repenting Hard to Do?

by Perry Hall

Do we find it hard to deeply and truly repent because we are basically a “good person” who has literally been “going to church” our whole life? How do we get better at doing the basic and primary

requirement of repenting because the kingdom of God is near, Mt 3:2?

Why else do we have difficulty truly repenting? Biblically, children are “safe” having been born without sin; and are by God’s design not yet

sinners. But when that time comes, when we become accountable for our actions and sins, where do we begin?

Process this, that no one is literally a “Christian” their “whole life”.

We haven’t even literally been “religious” our “whole life”, since religion etymologically and therefore literally means, “again-connected” as in a ligament becoming reconnected through surgery.


We haven’t even been “in the church” our whole life because only those cleansed by blood are in the church of God which is purchased by Jesus, Acts 20:28. We aren’t “in the church” of Christ unless we are “in the body” of Christ.

So what does that leave? What have we been doing our whole life, from childhood to now, before becoming a blood-bought Christian? I’m speaking here to a particular type of person and not to those raised without God.

Have we been “raised in the pew”; and when the time comes we walk out the door because we are basically a “good person” who has literally been “going to church” our whole and don’t see the need for forgiveness? No one can be forgiven without repenting! Have we processed that no one is good, Rom 3:10-12?

If not raised in the pew, then what?

Do we see how we are being prepared—or have been prepared—by godly parents raising us up in the training and instruction of the Lord, Eph 6:4, to be raised up in Christ? The day of preparation becomes realized when the day of repentance comes and we are baptized to become a disciple and Christian. Then we start preparing to live in God’s goodness for our whole remaining life.

Jesus told a very religious person, “You are not far from the kingdom of God,” Mk 12:34. Repentance is made harder when we think we already are where we need to be. 

Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for **Betty; Carolyn; Dot; John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard; Joyce; Mike, Deborah, and Serenity; Pam and Julie.**

Also, please pray for **Larson Plyler**, the son of **Lonell**, both preachers of the gospel in Alabama... Larson had a large mass removed

from his brain this past week; and **Kara Bingham**, who worships at Oakland... she has a number of very serious health issues, some of which have yet to be diagnosed. **Steve Klein’s** grandson **Matthew** is hospitalized with breathing issues, but is doing better. 