

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:

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.”



—1 Corinthians 15:19,20

Servants during October:

Songleader: Stanley (1), Larry (8), Stanley (15), Larry (22), Stanley (29)

Reading: Mike M

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Mike M, Marty, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (4), Larry (11), Stanley (18), Kris (25)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (1), Marty (8), Stanley (15), Larry (22), Kris (29)

Area Meetings: Southside, Tim Sutton, 22-27;

Ardmore, Various, 22-25; **Meeks St (Corinth, MS),** Tim Henderson, 22-25

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road
 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 6

October 22, 2023

Number 20

Dealing with Criticism

by Mike Grushon

One of the persistent problems young people must overcome is the criticism of from adults. Paul exhorted Timothy to conduct himself in such a way that he would give no one a basis of truth for such criticism, 1 Tim 4:12. Unfortunately, some choose to criticize the young even if they do not provide ample fuel for the critic’s fires. This is especially so when the young people happen to be actively involved in the Lord’s service.

This short article is directed to young people who are trying to use their talents to serve God and proclaim Christ. Our intention is to encourage you not to let the criticism of others deter you from

active service. All Christians have an equal responsibility to use their talents to teach the gospel to the lost, Mt 2:19,20. Do not allow anyone to deter you as a young Christian from fulfilling your responsibility.

The criticism young people receive is one of two classes. It is either deserved or undeserved. Regardless of the type of criticism you receive, you should not allow it to keep you from serving God. If you acted in such a way that you deserved the criticism, you should make the necessary correction, and press on in your service to God. If you were the subject of criticism that you did not deserve, or of that which proceeded from

an improper motive, pay it no need, simply continue to do what you know is right.

In dealing with criticism, it helps to try to understand the reason the criticism has been offered. Some people offer criticism out of a genuine concern for your spiritual well-being. It is usually not difficult to tell who such people are. Their attitude and the manner in which they criticize makes them easy to spot. Young people should have no problem getting along with such people. No matter how sharp their criticism may be, you know they are really interested in you.

However, what about the others? I am convinced that some of the criticism leveled against young people who are actively serving the Lord are outright attempts to discourage such activity. When young people show more zeal than the adults of a church, the adults are only left with a few alternatives. They can either: 1) allow the young people's zealous efforts to continue and suffer the embarrassment of their own inactivity, or 2) they can follow the young people's activity and become energetic themselves, or 3) they can try to squelch the young people's zeal and try to

salve their consciences by removing the constant reminder of what they ought to be doing themselves. When older members of the church discourage teenagers from doing personal work, visiting meetings, making notes on sermons, etc., I find it hard to believe that they have not selected the third option.

Young people, I am not saying that you should not pay attention to the criticisms made by older Christians. Constructive criticism offered by mature and understanding saints should make your talents even more useful to the cause of Christ. What I am saying is that should not allow the unjust criticism of lazy Christians hinder or prevent you from doing what you know you should be doing! Be a faithful and active Christian regardless of what others, young or old, may say about you. Look to the faithful Christian that you may know, whether preachers, elders, teachers. They are often the objects of severe criticisms, yet it has not stopped them. Paul was criticized by some of the Corinthians, yet they could not keep him from doing what he knew needed to be done. Do what you know you can do in God's service.

—via [Search for Truth](#), June 25, 2023 

The Empty Tomb

(A Muslim once said to a preacher, "We have our Prophet's tomb to show, but you have nothing." Indeed, and we thank God: Mt 28:6,7.)

Earth's Meccas and the faiths of men hold but a corpse within a tomb;
Each weary pilgrim's journey ends at some sad shrine of grief and gloom.
Earth's prophets rest in silence wrapped, dust in the dust from whence they came,
By death's chill wind their torches quenched, no more to kindle into flame.
Earth's priests in solemn splendor sleep, ashes to ashes, robed and stoled,
Their chanted prayers forever hushed, their altar fires forever cold.
Earth's kings in state and glory lie, in crypts of porphyry encased;
Their names and deeds, in marble carved, time's blurring touch has half
erased.

No mausoleum built by man entombs our Prophet, Priest, and King;
Our love no pilgrimage need make, no fading votive garlands bring.
No death could kill, no guard could keep, no seal could stay, no grave could hold
Immortal Life in mortal clay; no darkness could the Light enfold.
Our Prophet's word shall come to pass, our Priest is interceding still,
Our King shall reign forevermore while heaven and earth shall do His will.
"No grave to show?" This is the stone on which the temples of our faith
Rise higher than the mosques of Ind; our Living Lord has conquered death.

—Annie Johnson Flint, *Poems for Sunshine and Shadow*, Ord L. Morrow, ed., 1962, p77 

Remember in Prayer

Betty hurt her leg in a fall last Sunday night; more testing is to be done to determine if there is any bone damage. **Mike** will be undergoing more tests in the next couple weeks—we thank God that he is doing well, and his treatments appear to be effective!

Matt Bassford, author of the lyrics of several songs in our songbooks, is not expected to be much longer for this world. Please pray for them and their families, as well as **Carolyn; Dot; John, Sylvia,** and **Paige Pollard; Joyce; Pam** and **Julie.** 