

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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“Faithful are the
wounds of a friend,
but deceitful are
the kisses of an
enemy,”

—Proverbs 27:6

**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)

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

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Mark These People

by Bill Hall

Quickly now—What type of people are to be marked by Christians according to the scriptures? Those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to Christ’s doctrine? Yes, for so we are taught in Romans 16:17.

There is another type of person to be marked, however. “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample,” Phil 3:17 (KJV). The word “mark” is not synonymous with the word “withdraw.” According to W.E. Vine the Word means “to look at, behold, watch, contemplate.” Those who are evil, then, are to be marked and avoided; while those who walk in God’s Way are to be marked and followed.

Godly elders should be marked. Elders are to be examples to the flock, 1 Pet 5:3. They are to be men whose character is above reproach, who rule

their own house well, who are hospitable, and whose sound teaching can convict the gainsayers. We know such elders, and their example is priceless. Even after such men have passed on, they are to be remembered: “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow [a similar word to mark—BH], considering the outcome of their conduct,” Heb 13:7. Thank God for godly elders; mark them and follow their good example!


Godly women should be marked. If there are women in the congregation who stand out for their piety and humility, whose major attractiveness is their “meek and quiet spirit,” 1 Pet 3:4, who have adorned themselves with good works, who love their husband and children, who find joy and contentment in being a wife and mother and keeper at home, who feel

no resentment toward their position of subjection to man, who have devoted their lives to doing God's will—and there are such women in every congregation—then mark these godly women and follow their example. In these days when the women's liberation movement is affecting so many and actually intimidating many women who want to do right, it is wonderful to have godly women in the church who are able to lead the way and provide a role model for other women who are Christians. Thank God for godly women; mark them and follow their good example!

Godly preachers should be marked. Not all preachers are godly, but most of

the gospel preachers of our acquaintance are godly men whose lives speak as effectively as do their lips. They do their work, not as hirelings, but as men concerned for truth and the souls of men and women. Mark such men and follow their example!

Godly parents, godly young people, godly older people, godly suffering people, godly dying people—the godly faithful! How sad that some are so blinded by the faults of the few that they cannot see the virtues of the many. Good people are all around us. Let's look for them, contemplate their good qualities, mark them, and follow their example.

—via *Two Men*, 1998, p91-93 

pain of a wounded pride subsides, you realize it was a favor. Ignoring the problem would never have helped. You would not have your friend to act otherwise—though it takes a little time to appreciate “the wound” he inflicted. It is hard to appreciate a dentist while he is drilling!

Genuine interest in soul prompts concern in a friend who observes my path leading away from God. A sharp personal rebuke—“thou art the man” (2 Sam. 12: 1-7)—may be necessary to set me straight. It is better to suffer a momentary wound than eternal loss. “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”

Yet a friend finds no pleasure in inflicting such wounds. I resent the doctor grinning as he probes a sore spot! I know he must do it, but I do not like to think he enjoys it! It is all too easy to become a professional and perpetual critic of everything, and everybody—to delight in finding fault. Such is surely no virtue and evidently rarely profits anyone. An enemy aims his dart to destroy and to maim; a friend never does that. Our parents corrected us. The red welts on the “hinder parts” were not aimed at our destruction but were wounds of love for our profit.

And there is the other side of the coin—being a friend. That is not always easy. Friendship is more than social calls, sharing meals, and enjoying each other's companionship. It is caring enough to do whatever needs to be done—regardless how utterly distasteful the task may be.

Paul's sharp letter of rebuke to the Corinthians was written “out of much affliction and anguish of heart... with many tears...; that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you,” 2 Cor 2:4. Paul worried about writing the letter and how it would be received, but he rejoiced when he heard of their repentance, 2 Cor 7:6ff. His attitude and actions proved him to be a friend.

Why do you suppose we often excuse ourselves from all attempts to restore the lost, Gal 6:1? We know we should; we know it would be a kindness. It is NOT easy! Why do we not reason with our neighbors who are not Christians? We claim to be a friend but we ignore their greatest need—salvation from sin. We dread saying, “I fear you are going to be lost.” We keep quiet and let them go undisturbed to hell. With friends like us they don't need enemies.

—via *Plain Talk*, January 1970 

Daylight Saving Time
ends next Sunday, 11/5/23!
Fall back one hour...

Wounds of a Friend

by Joe Fitch

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful,” Prov 27:6. Compliments do not necessarily identify friends; criticism does not always come from enemies. Remember Judas who kissed the Lord—and betrayed him. Some of the most elaborate, gushing compliments I have ever received came from my enemies—often closely

associated with a sharp pain in the back where the knife entered! Some of the most unpleasant, painful, and ego deflating comments about myself and my work have come from my best friends. An enemy will tell everyone you have bad breath; a friend might give you a bottle of scope and suggest you try it. Oh, how criticism hurts! How awful it makes you feel! But when the

Remember in Prayer

Dot's grandson, Matthew, was baptized into Christ this past week! **Betty** still hurts from her fall, and is scheduled to have testing to determine if there is any bone damage. **Mike** is to have more procedures done on Nov 7 and 20. **Matt Bassford**, author of many

songs we sing, passed from this life Wednesday morning. Please pray for his wife and children, as well as **Betty, Carolyn; Dot; John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard; Joyce; Mike, Deborah, and Serenity; Pam and Julie.** 