

**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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“Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you,”

—Matthew 5:42

**Servants during Dec 2023 and Jan 2024:**

**Songleader:** Dwight (31), Stanley (1/7), Larry (1/14), Dwight (1/21), Stanley (1/28)

**Reading:** Stanley; Mike M (Jan)

**Announcements:** Larry; Stanley (Jan)

**Table:** Marty, Stanley, Mike M, Larry; Larry, Mike M, Marty, Stanley (Jan)

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (1/3), Stanley (1/10), Kris (1/17), Larry (1/24), Stanley (1/31)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** a wayward child until spring...

**Area Meetings:**

**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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# Restoring to Faithfulness

by Robert F. Turner

When members are lax in attendance of services, what are the best means of restoring them to faithfulness?

I could reply briefly by saying, “Convert them to Christ!” using genuine personal interest in their souls, living godly examples before them, and teach them God’s word.

But back of much “forsaking the assembling of ourselves” is misunderstanding of the nature of such. Some seem to think the “services” are a sort of “roll call,” satisfied by one’s bodily presence. We may further the misconception by urging them to “be faithful to the church,” when “faithfulness to Christ” is needed. Here are five things (not necessarily in order of importance) that bring brethren together.

Teaching them these things is a part of the converting process—the “all that I commanded you,” that must be taught following baptism, Mt 28:20. It will not be hard to do this IF they were originally taught to put Christ absolutely first in their lives.

**True saints are of one accord.**

They have so much in common, such singleness of purpose, they are drawn together by mutual consent. In Acts 2:42 “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” V44, “all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;” and in V46, “Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple.” Then, in Acts 4:32, “The congregation... were of one heart and

one soul.”

**Being espoused to Christ, we are faithful to him, put him first.** Paul said, “I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin,” 2 Cor 11:2. We love Him more than father, mother, or life, Mt 10:37-39, and serve Him accordingly. It was in order to “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering” that the Hebrew writer said, “not forsaking our own assembling together,” Heb 10:23-25, and concluded, “if we go on sinning willfully... there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,” V26.

**Christians love the truth.** Like David of old, they “delight in the law of the LORD, And in His law [they] meditate day and night,” Psa 1:2. Christians “long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it [they] may grow in respect to salvation,”

1 Pet 2:2.

**They venerate the Christ, and “show his death” until he comes again.** Our Lord has given us a memorial to observe “in remembrance of” Him. “As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes,” 1 Cor 11:23ff. Saints follow apostolic example and do this “on the first day of the week,” Acts 20:7, because they love the Lord.

**Christians work together, as a team, according to apostolic example.** Using the inspired word as their only guide, they pool their funds to maintain their own unit, Acts 4:34f, to assist needy saints in other congregations, 1 Cor 16:1-3, and to preach the word, Phil 4:15,16. They edified one another, 1 Cor 14:12f; and true saints faithfully do the same today.

—via *Plain Talk*, Jan 1973 

# Give to him who asks

by Robert F. Turner

Is a Christian to give all or lend all he has to anyone who asks? Is Mt 5:42 to be taken literally, or does it teach an attitude of mind?

Let us put the passage in its context: “You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take

your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you,” Mt 5:38-42, NASB.

Jesus is teaching against taking vengeance or retaliation. Put positively, Jesus urges mercy, with good grace and cheerfulness in the place of resentment. A Christian returns good for evil, unselfishly.

Extreme literalism would serve neither the contextual purpose of the teaching, nor the actual examples in Scripture. Pulpit Commentary says, “We may notice that while our Lord most perfectly observed the spirit of this command, he did not slavishly follow the letter of it, (cf. Jn. 18:22,23). Nor did St. Paul, (cf. Acts 16:35ff; 22:25; 23:3; 25:9,10).”

The limited mercy of the “tit for tat” principle—and “eye for eye” was a limitation upon the vengeance which a judge could assess—was now to give way to the more noble principles of Christ, whereby man learned to practice the “agape” love which God manifests toward His creatures.

Business loans are not under consideration here. Christ sanctioned the making of money with money via interest, Mt 25:27; and in such loans sound business principles would have to prevail. Nor do I believe Jesus was urging indiscriminate giving: Note 2 Thess 3:8-10; Tit 3:14. Some are unworthy of our assistance, and we are told not to encourage them in their lazy unproductive ways.

The Old Testament laws regarding usury or interest do not, in my opinion, forbid business deals for such. Special consideration was given the “brother” over strangers, Deut 23:19,20; but usury laws were aimed particularly against profiteering on the ill-fortune of others, or so as to “make capital” of others’ desire to serve God, cf Lev 25:35f; Neh 5. Now Jesus goes to the heart of these earlier laws, showing that measured retaliation and giving (without usury) to “brethren” is not enough. We are to cultivate a generous, unselfish, “2nd mile” attitude far exceeding anything found in the Old Law.

“Give to him who asks of you” is in the same vein, and teaches the same general truth as “Do not resist an evil person... turn the other to him also... let him have your coat... go with him two.” It establishes an ideal toward which we can spend a lifetime of seeking, pressing, and striving. As certain also of our own poets have said, “The gift, without the giver, is bare.”

—via *Plain Talk*, Sept 1972 

## Remember in Prayer

**Mike M’s wife, Mary**, will have surgery this Tuesday to remove cancer from her lung. **Joyce** was admitted to the Madison hospital Wednesday afternoon for pneumonia, and released Friday. **Cindy P** has had a respiratory

infection that has been plaguing her, as well. **Shirley** is feeling some better, although she has had a rough week.

And remember those with chronic issues as well—such as **Mike B**; **Carolyn**; **Betty**; and **John, Sylvia**, and **Paige Pollard**. 