

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 any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

—1 Corinthians 3:15

**Servants during January:**

Songleader: Stanley (7), Larry (14), Dwight (21), Stanley (28)

Reading: Mike M

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Mike M, Marty, Stanley

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

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Missing in action again, 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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Saved... by Fire?

Examining 1 Cor 3:15

by Marshall E. Patton

Several false doctrines are based upon this verse and its context, one of which is the Catholic doctrine of purgatory. However, a careful examination of this verse in the light of its context shows the doctrine to be a perversion of truth.

In verse nine Paul says, “ye are God’s building.” This identifies the material under consideration, namely, members of the church. Under the figure of a builder Paul refers to himself as having laid the foundation, i.e., his **work** was that of **beginning** the church in Corinth. He points out further that others have built upon this foundation, i.e., others had made new converts. These individuals are the material in the building—

they represent “every man’s work.” In time this **work** (individuals) will be made manifest whether it be good or bad. This is determined by those experiences that test men’s faith. The word “fire” is used figuratively to represent all the things by which our faith is tested. In verses fourteen and fifteen Paul shows that some men’s work will abide; other’s will suffer loss. Some converts will remain faithful through every trial, and will thereby, according to the figure, emerge triumphant from the testing **fire**. Some, unfortunately, will not stand the test; they will fall away and be lost.

These verses reveal a twofold objective. First, Paul shows what

will happen to one if some of his converts are lost. The answer is that his converts (works) will be lost, but he will be saved, provided he is found *faithful* after passing through whatever trial (fire) has come his way. Not only will every man's work (converts) be tested, but he himself will also be tested. Thus, it is that a man's work may be lost, yet he may be saved, but not without being tested himself—hence, “so as by fire.”

Another objective is pointed out in verses ten and eleven when

Paul warns of the danger of bringing men into the church on any bases other than that of sound doctrine—the foundation laid by Jesus Christ. If they are brought in on the basis of social, political, economic, entertainment, or other carnal considerations, the chances are they will only be wood, hay, or stubble, and, therefore, will not stand the test of fire. Indeed, the gospel is the only power of God unto salvation, Rom 1:16.

—via “*Answers for Our Hope*,” *Searching the Scriptures*, Nov 1965 

Working to Rule

by Sewell Hall

The term Work to Rule is familiar to most people living in England. It means to work according to predefined minimum requirements for a given job. Thus, the worker will work no weekends, no overtime, and no relief. He will make no effort to make up the time following a breakdown or delay. He may refuse to use equipment provided to increase

efficiency. Realizing the paralyzing effect of such minimum effort, labor leaders use such action as an alternative to a strike.

Working to Rule is common in the church. Many establish what appears to them to be a reasonable set of minimum requirements for staying out of hell and then live accordingly.


Usually it involves attending Sunday for “breaking of bread” (unless on holidays), giving a certain percentage of their income, perhaps “saying a little prayer” before retiring, and avoiding the grosser forms of immorality. They do not advertise or attend gospel meetings. They seldom attend Bible classes or Sunday evening services. “These are not required,” they explain. If all the members of a given congregation were Work to Rule people the church would be no more effective than an industry by such action.

The Lord has never stated any minimum requirements. He speaks only in terms of total commitment, of seeking first the kingdom, of giving our bodies a living sacrifice.

The church in Ephesus, once a very zealous church fired by love for God, left their first love and

settled down to Work to Rule. They maintained a minimum program of work and remained sound in teaching. But the Lord said, “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the first works, or else I come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent,” Rev 2:5.

We wonder how many churches may have had their candlesticks removed, and how many Christians have had their names blotted out of the book of life, not because they were on strike, but because they were working to some rule of their own devising.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord,” 1 Cor 15:58. 

Remember in Prayer

Mike M's wife, Mary, is doing well, and will shortly see the doctor about future treatments for her lung cancer; **Mike B** is doing well after having another procedure for cancer; other tests will follow; **Billy** is doing great, after having four teeth removed to

accommodate a partial—we thank God for all His blessings!

Please remember those with other chronic issues as well—such as **Carolyn**; **Betty**; **John**, **Sylvia**, and **Paige Pollard**; and **Joyce**. 