

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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“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven,”

—Matthew 5:14,16



Servants during January/February:

Songleader: Stanley (1/28), Larry (2/4), Dwight (11), Stanley (18), Larry (25)

Reading: Mike M (Jan); Larry (Feb)

Announcements: Stanley (Jan); Marty (Feb)

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

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (1/31), Kris (2/7), Larry (14), Stanley (21), Kris (28)

Area Meetings: Pepper Road, 2/17-21, Ken McDaniel;
Market Street, 2/23, Singing

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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To Be, or Not To Be Seen

by Robert F. Turner

Did Jesus contradict himself in the Sermon on the Mount? He said, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven,” Mt 5:14,16. But later he said, “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven,” Mt 6:1ff.

“To be seen of men” indicates a self-glorifying motive; doing things with no genuine desire to serve God or other men. This is labeled exactly what it is; i.e., hypocrisy. By such we deceive ourselves most often; perhaps a few others; but never fool God. Hypocrisy is not true **light** in

the first place. It has no heavenly reward; only praise of deceived men.

Regarding the first verses, true light **will** shine—that is its nature. If we will concentrate on **being** true lights rather than on **being seen**, the light will make known its presence. It will not be hidden unless we follow a policy of obscurity.

But why would anyone want to hide his light? A few years back it may have been fear ‘of being called a “square.” Now it may be a desire to be thought “free” or “uninhibited.” But light-hiding usually means we are ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and fear the unpleasant consequences that may come to those who defend and live its principles.

Cowards can find plausible excuses for using the “bushel.” They “show a brotherly deference” to prejudice—a condescending attitude, less than honest. They wish to “gradually accustom” men to their new idea. They are lovers of “peace” (where there is no peace). I remember one fellow saying that John lost his head because he lost his head—he failed to use tact and

diplomacy. But John’s light shone, and continues to shine on us.

“Let your light shine” means we must live for Christ in open, unashamed fashion. We must “reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” We must be primarily interested in pleasing the Lord, not in what men see or think of us.

—via *Plain Talk*, July 1976 

It Won't Wash Off!

by Dan S. Shipley

This early Friday morning finds a perplexed governor that has come to sit on the judgment-seat just outside the Praetorium. Having already examined Jesus, Pilate has found him to be innocent. Now, he must face a hostile and prejudiced mob who wants to hear this innocent man declared guilty. Not only has Pilate found no crime in Jesus, he knows that “for envy they had delivered him up,” Mt 27:18. And, with all this weighing on his conscience, his wife sends unto him saying, “Have thou nothing to do with this righteous man,” Mt 27:19. Pilate represented a powerful government that prided itself in its good laws and their equitable enforcement. For an honorable and just judge, the verdict should have

been easy in this case. But placative Pilate was on the spot. And he responds by ignoring his wife, his conscience and justice to become history’s best known coward.

“So when Pilate saw that he prevailed nothing, but rather that a tumult was arising, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man; see ye to it,” Mt 27:24. What justice! The innocent man is scourged and delivered to be crucified, Mt 27:26, while the man who decrees it declares himself innocent! Pilate wasn’t on trial. Yet, he feels compelled to vindicate himself by washing his hands and saying’ in effect, “**I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE!**”—even when no one cared. Pilate

should have known that responsibility is not a disposable commodity. It cannot be transferred; it won’t wash off. Yet, many before and since have imitated Pilate’s wash-pan ethics.

Even in Eden we can see signs of this unwillingness to face up to responsibility. Adam says, “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat”; Eve says, “The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat,” Gen 3:12,13. Like Pilate, each was saying, “**I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE!**” Their son Cain was saying the same thing in asking, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Gen 4:9. We see the Pilate problem in Aaron; we see it in King Saul; we even see it in the slothful one-talent man, Mt 25:24. The Pilates of modern society blame guns, laws, poverty, affluence, heredity, environment—they are never without some kind of a “wash pan” with which to declare themselves “**NOT RESPONSIBLE!**”—

not even in the spiritual realm where men need most to see self-guilt and face responsibility.

No man is without responsibility to God. Free-moral agency says it; stewardship says it, 1 Cor 4:2; knowledge says it, Jas 4:17; redemption says it, 1 Pet 1:15-19; and certainly, judgment says that all have responsibilities that are inescapable. Like Pilate’s, they can’t be washed off. Neither can they be blamed off; palmed off; regretted off; or ignored off! For the follower of Christ, it is a responsibility of freedom. We are saved to serve—even if only with one talent. How inconsistent then, for Christians to stand where Pilate stood!—excusing ourselves when we ought to be facing-up and steadfastly doing those things we know to be right. As elders, preachers, teachers, parents, and concerned Christians may God help us to see and say: “**I AM RESPONSIBLE!**”

—via *Plain Talk*, July 1976 

Remember in Prayer

Cathy Mitchell has had her first round of chemotherapy, and appears to be tolerating it relatively well. **Betty’s** oncologist says that her skin cancer isn’t spreading, but will have her tested next month to confirm; and all went well with

Stanley’s cousin, **Connie Saint’s**, open heart surgery Friday.

Remember all those of our near spiritual family that struggle with illness or chronic issues, including **Mike B; Carolyn; John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard;** and **Joyce.** 