

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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“...But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord’s brother. (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying)...”

—Galatians 1:19,20



Servants during February:

Songleader: Larry (4), Dwight (11), Stanley (18), Larry (25)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Stanley, Marty, Mike M, Larry

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (7), Larry (14), Stanley (21), Kris (28)

Area Meetings: Pepper Road,

2/17-21, Ken McDaniel;

Eastside, 2/18-20, Jonathan

Reeder; **Sandlin Road**, 2/18-21,

Matt Lannom; **Oakland**, 2/18-

23, Jason Shackelford; **Market**

Street, 2/23, Singing; **Jackson Drive**, 2/25-3/1, Leon Mauldin

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

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

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A Common Thread

by Kris Vilander

What do Bathsheba, Uriah, and Joab all have in common with each other? You might say, “They were all major characters in the account of David and Bathsheba,” found in 2 Sam 11; and of course, you would be right. But there is something else they have in common; something that we, at one time or another, may also have had in common with them—or rather, with David.

Some time ago, a college student from France came to be an intern at a company I was with, and was assigned to work with me. We worked on the same projects, shared the same cubicle, and had many conversations with each other—both of work and non-work related subjects.

He was a personable, moral man who had a good work ethic; but in all the time we were together, he would never accept an invitation to meet with the church or to study—in fact, he made it clear that for the time being, he wanted nothing to do with religion. Six months later, shortly before he left, I asked him why he felt that way. He

revealed to me that when he was young, a priest had said something in his hearing that, I had to admit, should not have been said—and which my friend would never forget. Secondly, he said that the Catholic Church (which is the predominant religion in France) had itself done many things in the name of God that were harmful to men and mankind—things which he knew were not from God. For him, these represented Christianity, and he didn’t want any part of it— at least for then.

You see, of all the things I learned from my foreign friend, perhaps the most valuable was that of the importance of influence; and that is the common thread between Bathsheba, Uriah, and Joab—influence. David used his influence with each one of them to get them to do something they knew was wrong: Bathsheba, to commit adultery; Uriah, to become drunk; Joab, to commit murder.

No matter what we may think, each one of us will be an influence on others; the only choice is whether that influence is for good or for bad. We may

influence those who work with us and for us, we may influence our friends; if we are married, we most certainly will influence our spouse and our children.

At times, we may decide to use our influence improperly, as did King David. More often, though, our influence is felt passively—simply by what we say and do. Our words, like those of the priest my friend spoke of, can leave marks that will last eternally; and our actions, like those of the Catholic Church, can speak volumes more than our mouths ever could.

James declared that “...For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect [or, mature—kv] man, able to bridle the whole body as well,” Jas 3:2. It was for this reason that he wrote earlier (v1), “...Let not many of you become teachers.” By our words, we can either help someone on their merry way to destruction, or to true peace with God. While this is sobering, it doesn’t mean that we should avoid teaching at all or keep from speaking to anyone; but it does mean we must watch what we say. Paul commanded, “Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that

you will know how you should respond to each person,” Col 4:6.

Of works, Jesus himself said, “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,” Mt 5:16. The opposite is also true; if others see us doing what is not good, knowing that we profess to be children of God, they may want nothing to do with what we profess to be a part of.

It may be that my friend was using these reasons as an excuse—I don’t know; but I do know this: we will be an influence; and if we are thoughtless with our words, or not careful in our example, that influence may last for more than a lifetime.

As we parted, I asked that he not judge God by what mere men say or do, but instead to come to know him by his own words—the Bible. I don’t expect to see my friend again in this life; it’s unlikely that either of us will visit the other’s nation in the future. Still, my hope is that God used my family and me as an influence for good. Perhaps a seed of truth was planted, and we will get to see one another again—only this time, in Heaven with God. 📖

Traditional vs Non-Traditional

by Greg Gwin

It seems that many of our brethren are determined to be ‘non-traditional’ in their beliefs and

practices. It has almost reached the point where being ‘traditional’ is now the uncommon thing! The approach

and mindset of some is apparently: ‘If this is the way it has always been done, it must be wrong — let’s change it.’

Concerning this ‘non-traditional’ way of thinking, let us offer these observations:

If any ‘tradition’ is being bound in place of, or in favor of, God’s law, then such ‘tradition’ should be immediately exposed, denounced, and discarded. In rebuking the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said: “Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men... You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition... thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition...” Mk 7:8-13. Let us never be guilty of binding our human traditions as they did.

Remember that some ‘traditions’ are handed down to us by divine inspiration, and these are important and necessary to our salvation. Paul said: “So then, brethren, stand firm

and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us,” 2 Thess 2:15. And he instructed this: “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us,” 2 Thess 3:6. Therefore it is essential that we honor every God-given ‘tradition’.

Finally, think about this: Things that are done ‘traditionally’ (based upon lawful areas of judgment) have become ‘traditional’ for a reason. Basically, these specific ways and means have been chosen because they work well. Good and wise brethren have seen the expediency of these methods over time, and thus they have grown to be the ‘norm’. Changing these things just to demonstrate that we are ‘non-traditional’ is neither prudent nor necessary.

Think! 📖

Remember in Prayer

Mike B is being considered for a heart (tricuspid) valve replacement; I’m sure he would appreciate prayer as they consider him for fitness, and as he makes the decision of whether to accept it. **Cathy Mitchell** is still in Huntsville Hospital, feeling pretty well with beautiful attitude while beginning long term dialysis!

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

“Gospel meeting” season is beginning, and there are several local meetings noted on the back of this bulletin! 📖