

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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"If anyone is in Christ,
 he is a new creation;
 old things have passed
 away; behold, all things
 have become new,"

—2 Corinthians 5:17

**Servants during May:**

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

Reading: Larry (May)

Announcements: Marty (May)

Table: Mike, Larry, Stanley
 (May)

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

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Larry (4), Marty
 (11), Kris (18), Stanley (25)

Area Meetings:

Pepper Road, 6/7-12, Brett Hogland;
Eastside (Athens), 6/15-20, Larry Rouse;
Lacey's Springs, 6/22-27, Tim Sutton;
Truth Lectures, 7/14-17, Various speakers

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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NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

By Warren E. Berkley

As soon as you meet this man, Nehemiah, you discover what may be the most important thing about him: the rich activity of his trust in God illustrated by his prayer in Nehemiah chapter one (1:4-11).

He lived in the capital city of Susa in Persia around 450 B.C. While serving as cupbearer of King Artaxerxes he heard the bad news that the people back in Judah were suffering in the ruins of Jerusalem. Nehemiah's first reaction was not political action, organizing a protest, abandoning his job, or getting drunk.

"As soon as" he heard this, he "sat down and wept and mourned for days." He fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

He prayed: "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and

keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my

name dwell there.' They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayers of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." (1:5-11).


Nehemiah knew WHO he was praying to. This was no obligatory remark; "our thoughts and prayers" are with the suffering people of Judah. He spoke to the God he had known all his life, and in addressing God, he shows his personal familiarity with Him. He was praying to the great and awesome God of heaven, with full confidence in His power to hear, to respond and to guide the work that was ahead.

Nehemiah knew the situation wasn't God's fault. He put the blame on the people (including himself) who "acted very corruptly," in their disobedience to God's commands given through Moses. Nehemiah knew the history of the covenant and

was aware of what had gone wrong. Someone said one time, "You might as well tell God the truth when you pray. He knows it before you start praying!"

Nehemiah knew the people belonged to God. He said, "They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand." After this prayer was offered, Nehemiah would recruit, organize and mobilize a huge number of people to rebuild the walls. He went into that project knowing the people didn't belong to him, they belonged to God.

Read Nehemiah chapter one, and learn how to react to bad news. Determine to read Nehemiah's prayer and see the mature faith he brought to that conversation with God. And the dependence on God and devotion to God that governed him after his prayer.

Here was a man who did not act without prayer, but did not pray without acting. 

2 Cor 1:21. Two individuals cannot get any closer! The things that can be found in this relationship are the things that meet our deepest needs, such as forgiveness of sins, a fresh start in life and something to hope for

beyond death. In fact, God "has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places IN CHRIST," Eph 1:3.

Since all of us have sinned, Rom 3:23, we all need forgiveness. We can find it in Christ. In Him we have "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins," Col 1:13-14.

Having messed up our lives with sin, we also greatly need a fresh start in life, and we can find it in Christ. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new," 2 Cor 5:17.


A hope of eternal life is also found in Christ. Christians know that "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son," 1 Jn 5:11.

The things that are in Christ are the things everyone needs, but everyone is not in Christ. Many think they are, but are they really? Have

they done what it takes according to scripture to have access to the blessings found only in Christ? How does a person get into Christ, anyway?

Only two verses in the Bible contain the phrase "into Christ." They are Galatians 3:27 and Romans 6:3. Galatians 3:27 states, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Romans 6:3 says, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" Obviously, when a believer is baptized he is baptized "into" Christ and thus "puts on Christ."

Believers who have been Scripturally baptized are in Christ. They have believed before being buried in the watery grave of baptism for the remission of their sins. Are you in Christ?

—Via **the Exhorter**, possibly 1/25/2001 

Are You In Christ?

By Steve Klein

The very name "Christian" suggests that one who is worthy of the name has a close relationship with Christ. The scriptures emphasize this closeness by referring to Christians as being "in Christ,"

Time is passing quickly! Invite your friends to our
"Gospel meeting"
with Adam Smith, May 25-28

Remember in Prayer  

Donise is healing from relatively serious facial skin cancer recently removed.

Please pray for **Barbara; Betty; Carolyn; Deborah** and **Serenity;**

Hazel; Kathy M; Pam B, Julie, Kaylee and Violet; Mark Horton; Pam McNatt; and John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard. 