

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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“And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

—Acts 16:29,30

**Servants during September/October:**

Songleader: Stanley (9/28), Larry (10/5), Dwight (12), Stanley (19), Larry (26)

Reading: Stanley (Sep); Mike (Oct)

Announcements: Larry (Sep); Stanley (Oct)

Table: Marty, Stanley, Mike (Sep); Larry, Mike, Marty (Oct)

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (10/1), Kris (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris (29)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (9/28), Marty (10/5), Stanley (12), Larry (19), Marty (26), Stanley (14), Larry (21)

Area Meetings:

Jennings Chapel, 10/26-28, Ralph Walker

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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“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

By Richie Thetford

In Acts 16:16-34 we can read about what led to and the conversion of the Philippian Jailer. Paul and Silas were cast into prison for preaching the truth and for casting out a “spirit of divination” from a fortune telling slave girl. It is interesting to note in verse 18 after Paul had commanded the spirit to come out of her, that her masters only saw that their way of making money had disappeared instead of seeing the work of God. In a rage, they brought Paul and Silas before the magistrates and falsely accused them. As a result they were stripped of their clothes, beaten, and cast into prison where this jailer was charged to keep them safely.

The Earthquake

While in prison, Paul and Silas stayed true to God and were singing and praying to Him. When the

earthquake hit, the record says that the doors were opened, and their bands were loosed. The jailer being awakened by the earthquake thought that all the prisoners had escaped and was getting ready to kill himself when Paul exclaimed “Do thyself no harm: for we are all here,” Acts 16:28. Quite opposite of the slave-girl’s masters reaction, the jailer realized this was an act of God and fell down before Paul and Silas and said Sirs, “what must I do to be saved?” This is incredible when you think about it. Here is a pagan soldier, who just moments before was unaware of his need to be saved, and now was eager to know the truth and how he could be saved. How good it would be if everyone had the heart of this jailer, who was ready and willing to do whatever it took to be saved.

The Jailer and You

Do you realize that you and I are in the very same situation? We live perched on the edge of forever everyday, Jas 4:14; Heb 9:27. Do you continue to conduct your life as though you will never have to stand before God and answer for your deeds? You will, 2 Cor 5:10. Do you think God will overlook your rebellion to obey Him? He won't, Rev 1:8. Our life is short and therefore we should strive to do whatever we can to ensure that we are saved. We should ask "What must I do to be saved?"

Paul's Answer

Paul spoke the word of the Lord to the jailer, Acts 16:31-32. It is only God's word that can take away guilt and remove the barrier of sin that separates us from God, Isa 59:2; Rom 1:16. The word of the Lord told the jailer that he had to believe, Heb 11:6, but that is not all because belief alone will not save us, Jas 2:19-24. Paul's answer to the jailer

led the jailer to DO what was necessary unto salvation. In verses 33,34, we can see that the jailer's faith in God was not a dead faith, but an active, living, obeying, saving faith. As a result he was baptized for the forgiveness of sins. The burden of guilt was removed and he received God's gift of salvation, Eph 2:8. This very same gift is available to you today!

The Jailer Did Not Wait

Unlike many people today, the jailer did not wait to be saved. Once he knew what he needed to do, "the same hour" he was baptized. Are you waiting? If your life is not right with God, why are you waiting? It is a terrible thing to put off a chance for eternal salvation. Won't you make your life right with God, who loves you so much that He sent His only Son Jesus to die for you, Jn 3:16? Have you heard the WORD OF THE LORD? If so, what are you WAITING for? 

useful life among their peers. They are an example to us all.

Perhaps you know such a person. Or maybe you are one yourself. I happen to know one or two who have achieved far beyond what their background would have allowed. But I'll tell you something; I have never yet known personally or even heard of a person who could make a honest claim to being a "self-saved man". Oh yes, I have listen to many testimonies of folks who tell of turning from vile, corrupt lives to lives of moral soundness and even belief in God. It is wonderful to see such changes take place. Although they never say it, they seem, however, to be saying by their stories that they have saved themselves. I don't believe that for a minute!

Why? Because even though they talk of God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit, they substitute their "good works" and moral soundness in the place of "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." Sure, they feel so good about their changed lives that this seems to them to mean they are saved. It is a grand accomplishment, indeed, to repent of sin and to live in the ways of righteousness. But without the blood of

Jesus, this righteousness is NOT the righteousness of God. The righteousness of God is found only in the gospel of Christ, Rom 1:16,17. Paul said that the Jews were ignorant of God's righteousness, but went about establishing their own righteousness. And Paul said that he prayed that the Jews might be saved, Rom 10:1-4, implying that his hope was that they would see their error in subjective thinking, and come to a knowledge of the truth that is in Christ Jesus (cp. Mt 7:21-23). Repentance alone does not save any more than faith alone or baptism alone or anything alone will save. Even grace alone cannot save. It takes obedient faith for grace to save, Eph 2:8,9; Acts 2:38.

The grace of God rests in the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ. No person can save himself! Salvation is IN, BY and THROUGH the sacrifice of the Son of God at Calvary. Divorcing one's salvation from the blood of Christ is no salvation at all, but rather self-deception, 2 Thess 2:10-12. Good feelings about self don't save. JESUS SAVES! There never has been, is, or will be a "self-saved man".  [Slightly edited, KV]

A Self-Saved Man

By Frank Vondracek

We have often heard of those who come out of obscurity, abject poverty and limited formal education to become world renowned in some field. George Washington Carver was such a man. He became a world recognized botanist and expert on the peanut and its manifold uses. We say of such

people – "He pulled himself up by his boot straps" or "He's a self-made man". We have to admire people who don't let the circumstances of life hinder their progress and accomplishments. Our hats are off to every "self-made man and woman" who lives an honest,

Remember in Prayer

Marie is recovering from surgery after having fallen and broken her wrist last week. **Shane** has had an ear infection, and **Alice** has had an upper respiratory infection—but have been feeling pretty rough as a result. **Pam McNatt** had her surgery, and is doing well, for which we thank God. **Bernetta Murrell** had surgery for a serious hernia and is doing well, but will have a long recovery. **Betty** is still in

Limestone Rehabilitation. The doctors have decided that **Carolyn's** exhaustion is due to one of her medications. **Cindy V** plans to have surgery 11/4, God willing.

Please continue to pray for **Callie H;** **Deborah** and **Serenity;** **Hazel;** **John,** **Sylvia,** and **Paige Pollard;** **Joshua** and **Kayla V;** **Pam B,** **Kaylee,** **Julie** and **Violet.** 