

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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“One who is gracious
 to a poor man lends
 to the LORD, And He
 will repay him for his
 good deed,”

—Proverbs 19:17

**Servants during October:**

Songleader: Larry (5), Dwight (12),
 Stanley (19) , Larry (26)

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Mike, Marty

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

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Marty
 (5), Stanley (12), Larry (19), Kris (26)

Area Meetings:

Jennings Chapel, 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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Rich and Poor, Poverty and Wealth

By Hiram Hutto

In a recent class, the question was asked, “What do you think the average person says would bring them joy and happiness?” Almost without exception, at the top of the list was: money, good job, financial security, a good home, etc. In another survey conducted a number of years ago, the answer was “a 30% increase in pay.” This shows clearly that our society has the idea that riches and/or material things are a genuine blessing. The Bible, on the other hand, tells us that riches can be very dangerous and need careful watching. Consider a few passages:

“They that are minded to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many

sorrows,” 1 Tim 6:9,10.

“Verily I say unto you, It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven,” Mt 19:23.

Riches are deceitful.

They can cause a person to think that no matter what the problem, riches can take care of it. They can buy security, happiness, or anything else. “The rich man’s wealth is his strong city,” Prov 10:15. Such thinking is to put one’s trust in the wrong place. Jesus warned against trusting in riches, Mk 10:24. “Charge them that are rich in this present world that they ... trust not in the uncertainty of riches,” 1 Tim 6:17. All need to realize “riches profit not in the day of wrath,” Prov 11:4.

Riches are dangerous.

In attitude toward self. They can lead a person to think he is self-sufficient and has no need of God. “Do not give me riches, lest I be full and

deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord?" Prov 30:9.

In attitude toward those who are not rich. "Charge them that are rich in this present world that they be not high-minded," 1 Tim 6:17. Care must be exercised lest the rich "look down their nose" on those who are poor.

Sometimes those who are rich sin because they attach too much importance to those who are. We may do this because we seek some benefit from them or we may place an aura of superiority around them. But remember, James 2:1-9 says that such is sin because it is respect of persons, and we become judges of evil thoughts.

Chances are, when we read passages about the rich we think about the Rockefellers, the Kennedys, or maybe Sam Walton. But in all probability, when compared to the rest of the world, most of us are "the rich." Just think about it. How many people in the world, by a flip of the switch, turn darkness into light; if they are too hot, simply turn a knob and soon they are cool (or vice versa); by turning the correct faucet get either hot or cold running water; automatically wash and dry clothes, freeze the food, and a thousand and one other things? "Even Solomon in all his glory" could not do one of these. Yes, we are rich and we need to remember the dangers and the deceit.

Still, it needs to be observed that the mere possession of riches is not a sin. We read that Abraham was very rich, Gen 13:2. David gave over a million dollars toward the building of the temple, 1 Chron 29. No doubt Job was rich. I do not know how many were in the church at Corinth, but evidently there were not a few, Acts 18:8, and yet Gaius could be the host of the whole church, Rom 16:23. The difference must be in attitude. Such people must have had "their hope set on God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy," 1 Tim 6:17.

Let us never forget that Jesus assures us "the poor you have with you always," Mk 14:7. First of all, we must be certain that we do not despise or dishonor them by showing respect of persons, exalting the rich and belittling the poor, Jas 2:6. Further, we should remember to "do them good," Mk 14:7. God says, "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord and his good deed will he pay again," Prov 19:17; cf 22:22,23.

While it is no sin to be rich, neither is it salvation to be poor. "Lest I be poor, and steal, and use profanely the name of God," Prov 30:9. Let us always remember that it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven, yet "did not God choose them that are poor as to the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom?" Jas 2:5.

—via *Christianity Magazine*, 1988 

Remember in Prayer

Alice has been dealing with major sore throat issues this past week. **Betty; Carolyn; Deborah and Serenity; Hazel; John, Sylvia, Marie; and Paige Pollard;**

Joshua and Kayla V; Pam B, Kaylee, Julie and Violet; Pam McNatt; and Bernetta Murrell. 

What Does Preaching Accomplish?

By Bob Waldron

The Old Testament prophet was the preacher of his day. He was inspired, but other than that, he served in the same role as preachers must serve today. There were all kinds: blunt Amos, noble Isaiah, austere Elijah. There were also different purposes served by the various prophets. Some of them made virtually no converts (Jeremiah). Some were very successful, even when they did not want to be (Jonah).

The prophets have messages which refresh us and encourage us. Sometimes they give us sober warning. Consider one of the lessons. Isaiah prophesied 740-700 B.C. He preached in Jerusalem but he saw the downfall of Israel to the north. He saw the terrible signs of decay in his own Judah. Although he had the sympathy and support of Hezekiah, the people of Judah gave little heed to his preaching. Also, some of the time, he dealt with a king such as Ahaz who had no sympathy for Isaiah's cause whatsoever. A situation like that makes us wonder, "If people will not listen, why preach? What good does it do?"

In Isaiah's commission (ch 6), the Lord says, "I need someone to do a job." Isaiah volunteered. The job was: "Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes," Isa 6:10. How was Isaiah to do this? By telling them what God said. Isaiah wanted to know how long he should do this. God answered, "Until cities be waste without inhabitant, and houses without man, and the land become utterly waste," 6:11.

God knew the heart of His people. He knew that they would reject His word. God wanted Isaiah to know that He knew they would respond this way. Yet He told Isaiah to preach to them anyway. Why? Isaiah was to preach with all his heart because he might convert his people. If he could not accomplish this, then he was to leave them no defense when judgment came. Let them drive the nails in their own coffin as it were.

The preacher today is to preach with all his heart to win sinners from the clutches of this sinful generation. Preach with love and concern. But even when it seems that the effort is a failure, realize that this is not the case. We get preoccupied with numbers sometimes and forget that our objective is to do the bidding of God and leave the results in His almighty hand. God wants all men to be saved, 1 Tim 2:4. If, however, a generation turns away from God, then God wants them to have a witness against them that they were taught. He wants them taught again and again, so that their rejection of His will is complete. Whether they obey or whether they are lost, "yet they shall know that there hath been a prophet among them," Ezek 2:5.

This lesson is not to say that we should deaden our hearts to the fate of doomed men and women but to help us realize that when we have done our best to preach the word, and the world will not respond, we have not failed if we have faithfully taught the word. 