

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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"...Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches,"

—2 Corinthians 11:28

**I apologize for any confusion:**

Somehow, I never changed the Schedule to December last month...

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Marty, Mike

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (12/31), Larry (7), Stanley (14), Kris (21), Larry (28)

Servants during Dec/Jan:

Songleader: Larry (12/28), Dwight (1/4), Stanley (11), Larry (18), Dwight (25)

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 8

December 28, 2025

Number 26

Taking the Humanity Out of the Cockpit

By Kenny Chumbley

Not that long ago, I began to read the 9/11 Commission Report. It is the official 580 page moment-by-moment examination of what went on September 11, 2001, and recommendations of how to avoid a repeat situation. Reading it, as with listening to the audio transmissions and live footage, moved me to tears. So much happened; so many errors; so much selfish evil from some, and yet selflessness from others—who would have ever thought to prepare for multiple hijackings of passenger planes to be used as weapons? It reminded me of this article...

"He knows what we are made of, He remembers we are dust," Psalm 103:14, Moffit translation.

A couple weeks ago I watched Sully, the movie depicting the ditching on January 15, 2009, of US Airways Flight 1592, piloted by Captain Chelsey "Sully" Sullenberger, on the Hudson River, after both engines of his plane had been disabled by bird

strikes. Sully's handling of the situation saved all 156 souls on board, and he was immediately hailed a hero. Some, however, accused him of mishandling the situation and tried to hold him culpable for the loss of the plane, claiming he had enough altitude and power to make it back to the airport.

At the public hearing, the National Transportation and Safety Board announced that pilots flying simulators—programmed with all the settings of Sully's plane at the time of the incident—had been able to safely return to LaGuardia, which seemed to sustain the charges against Sullenberger. Here's what then ensued.

SULLY: "Can we get serious? ...We've all heard about the computer simulations... but I can't quite believe

you still have not taken into account the human factor.”

NTSB COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: “Human pilots and simulation showed you could make it back to the airport.”

SULLY: “No they didn’t. These pilots were not behaving like human beings, like people who are experiencing this for the first time... No one warned us. No one said you are going to lose both engines at a lower altitude than any jet in history... No one has ever trained for an incident like that; no one... You’ve allowed no time for analysis or decision making. In these simulations, you’ve taken all of the humanity out of the cockpit.”

It turned out that even though the simulator pilots knew beforehand what was going to happen and what to do when it happened, it still took seventeen tries before they could get the plane back to LaGuardia. When the human factor was added to the test, and thirty seconds were allowed to elapse between the time of the bird strike and the turn for the airport, the simulator plane crashed short of the runway every time.

Am I off-base in guessing there have been times when all of us have taken the humanity out of the cockpit and judged a situation on the basis of ideal conditions apart from the human factor? How many preachers, for instance, have shamed struggling saints for their anxiety and worry,

accusing them of little faith, and backing it up by quoting Matthew 6:25ff or Philippians 4:6, “be anxious for nothing”? When admonishing the anxious, how often has the human factor been forgotten or ignored? “Some people feel guilty about their anxieties and regard them as a defect of faith. I don’t agree at all. They are afflictions, not sins. Like all afflictions, they are, if we can so take them, our share in the Passion of Christ. For the beginning of the Passion—the first move, so to speak—is in Gethsemane” (C. S. Lewis, Letters to Malcolm, chapter 8). Lewis then notes that in Gethsemane, when “the torments of hope” were unleashed on Christ, He was anxious.

Not only that, but in Gethsemane, Christ asked for the very thing He said—just a few days before—He wouldn’t ask for, Jn 12:27; Mk 14:35. Eliminate the human factor, and you’ll never understand Gethsemane; or why Paul turned to Ananias, rather than turning the other cheek, to say, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall!” Acts 23:3; or a thousand other reactions in Scripture and in life.

Before criticizing another for mishandling a situation, remember the human factor. Doing so might make us more patient and kind toward our brother in his struggle; it might even cause us to remember times when we’ve asked for mercy, because, after all, we’re only human.



A Woman’s Question

By Lena Lathrop

Do you know you have asked for the costliest thing
Ever made by the Hand above?
A woman’s heart, and a woman’s life—
And a woman’s wonderful love.

Do you know you have asked for this priceless thing
As a child might ask for a toy?
Demanding what others have died to win,
With the reckless dash of a boy.

You have written my lesson of duty out,
Manlike, you have questioned me.
Now stand at the bars of my woman’s soul
Until I shall question thee.

You require your mutton shall always be hot,
Your socks and your shirt be whole;
I require your heart be true as God’s stars
And as pure as His heaven your soul.

You require a cook for your mutton and beef,
I require a far greater thing;
A seamstress you’re wanting for socks and shirts—
I look for a man and a king.

A king for the beautiful realm called Home,
And a man that his Maker, God,
Shall look upon as He did on the first
And say: “It is very good.”

I am fair and young, but the rose may fade
From this soft young cheek one day;
Will you love me then ’mid the falling leaves
As you did ’mong the blossoms of May?

Is your heart an ocean so strong and true,
I may launch my all on its tide?
A loving woman finds heaven or hell
On the day she is made a bride.

I require all things that are grand and true,
All things that a man should be;
If you give this all, I would stake my life
To be all you demand of me.

If you cannot be this, a laundress and cook
You can hire and little to pay;
But a woman’s heart and a woman’s life
Are not to be won that way.

*Brother: Did you consider this when you asked your wife to marry you? “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD,” Prov 18:22. Both women and men worth marrying were hard to be found when I married, and have only become increasingly so. Make certain you are one of them, and stay that way as long as God lends you breath. God demands it of you. This poem was found in **I Kissed Dating Goodbye**, Joshua Harris, pp186,186.*

Remember in Prayer

Shirley was admitted to Athens Hospital 12/22, but is home now. **Betty** also has come home from HH. Please also remember **Carolyn**;

Deborah and **Serenity**; **Hazel**; **John**, **Sylvia**, and **Paige Pollard**; **Joshua** and **Kayla V**; **Pam B**, **Kaylee**, **Julie** and **Violet**; and **Pam McNatt**.