

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

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“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ,”



—Galatians 3:26,27

**Servants during June:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (2), Larry (9), Dwight (16), Stanley (23), Larry (30)

**Reading:** Larry; Stanley

**Announcements:** Larry

**Table:** Marty, Stanley, Larry

**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (5) Kris (12), Larry (19), Stanley (26)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Larry (2), Kris (9), Marty (16), Stanley (23), Larry (30)

**Area Meetings: Pepper Road,** 6/1-6, Donnie Rader; **Eastside,** 6/9-14, David Banning;

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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 Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

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

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## Immersed in Jesus

by Steve Klein


When a person immerses himself in something, he totally surrounds himself with it. He spends time thinking about it and making plans around it. It occupies his mind, utilizes his energy and expends his resources.

People can immerse themselves in many different things. Some are immersed in hobbies, recreation or sports such as hunting, fishing, college football, baseball, golf, racing, collecting, or gardening. Others are immersed in their work or school. Some are immersed in their children or grandchildren. When a person is seriously sick, it is easy to become immersed with health concerns.

As Christians, “we were all baptized into one body,” 1 Cor 12:13. Most of us understand that the word “baptized” means “immersed.” But what we may not have thought much about is the connection between being immersed in water and being immersed in Jesus. The apostle Paul puts it this way in Galatians 3:27: “For

as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Those of us who have been “baptized into Christ” are to have put Him on like a garment. We are to be covered up with Him—immersed in Him.

By itself, immersion in water does nothing to change a person’s life. But when that immersion is the beginning of being overwhelmed with Jesus Christ, lives are truly changed. Baptism into Christ results in a person being raised to “walk in newness of life,” Rom 6:4. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation,” 2 Cor 5:17. This new life is one that is immersed in Jesus.

Every sinner needs to be immersed in water for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38; 22:16. But everyone who is immersed in water is thus obligated to live a new life immersed in Jesus. Are you immersed in Him? “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts,” Rom 13:14. 

# GOD'S ARK

by Frank Himmel

History's most famous boat is always referred to as "Noah's ark." After all, Noah built it. But the truth of the matter is, it was not his; it was God's ark. God commissioned it. "By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household..." Heb 11:7. And God designed it. He told Noah, "This is how you shall make it..." Gen 6:15, followed by a list of specifics.

Human wisdom might have called for some changes to God's plan. "Cover it inside and out with pitch" surely did not produce a very aesthetic vessel. One door would never meet modern fire codes. And how could one window provide sufficient ventilation for a zoo full of animals? Perhaps it was a really lonnng window!

If any of these alterations occurred to Noah, he did not act on them. To the contrary, the Bible says, "Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did." In fact, for emphasis, it says that twice, Gen 6:22; 7:5.

Had Noah changed any of God's specifications, then it truly would

have been "Noah's ark." He might have still called it "God's ark," but it would no longer be God's. And it would have floated about as well as a bottomless bucket!

Noah had too much integrity to tinker with God's will. He built by faith, which comes from hearing the word of God, Rom 10:17. And he built in reverence, a respect for God that knows His way is always best, regardless of whether we see why. Noah simply obeyed.

Modern man needs to learn the lesson of God's ark. When we change God's blueprint, the result is our product, not His.

People have taken God's plan for the church and altered it in every way imaginable: its purpose, its work, its organization, its worship, its entrance requirements, etc. They still call it the Lord's church, but it isn't even a distant cousin to the church you read about in God's word. The same thing is true of marriage, baptism, and a number of other divine provisions.

In the days of the flood, disobedience characterized the lost, not the saved. That hasn't changed.



# Decently and In Order

by Greg Gwin

Prayer is frequently referred to as 'talking to God.' The very nature of the act makes it a very personal thing. It is something that every Christian should engage in several times throughout each day.

But there is also such a thing as 'public prayer.' We have reference to prayers that are made when we assemble together with other saints. Several passages in the book of Acts show that it was a common practice among first century Christians to join together in prayer, Acts 1:24; 4:31; 12:12; 20:36; 21:5. In these 'public prayers' it is obviously necessary for one to 'lead' or direct the thoughts of the entire congregation.

**Here are some suggestions for the one who is leading in public prayer:**

It is especially important to speak so everyone can hear you. How can you 'lead' others if they cannot hear what you are saying?

Someone has offered this good

hint: speak so that a person in the farthest corner of the building could hear you—then everyone else will, too.

Be sure that your prayers are directed to God the Father through Jesus, Col 3:17.

Public prayers do not necessarily have to be long. The model prayer, often called the Lord's Prayer, has only 65 words, Mt 6:9-13.

Remember the warning about praying to be "seen of men," Mt 6:5.

**For others in the assembly:**

Remember that this is not a passive activity. While one is 'leading' in the prayer, you should also be actively praying to the Father.

After the prayer has concluded, it is entirely appropriate and scriptural for the other men to add their "Amen," 1 Cor 14:16. Doing so indicates agreement with that which has been prayed. We very much encourage this Biblical practice!

## *Remember in Prayer*

Though still at Vanderbilt, **Hazel** is doing better! Pray for our community, state, and national **leaders**, as well as those in other nations, 1 Tim 2:1-4. Pray for **one another's** health, both physical and spiritual, Jas 5:16. Don't

forget to pray for neighbors and kin that have never known, or have turned away from Christ. Please continue to pray for **Mike B; Carolyn; Betty; Kathy Mitchell; and the Pollard Family.**