

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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“Therefore I exhort you, brothers, through the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service,”

—Romans 12:1, KJV

**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:

Isbell, 6/16-18, Don Miller;

Jackson Drive, 6/16-25, John Isaac
 Edwards

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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Things Involved in Service

by Dee Bowman

Service is serving—sometimes voluntarily, sometime involuntarily. In service one is enslaved to someone or something—sometimes voluntarily, sometimes involuntarily. Slavery is not all bad. For instance, Paul, inspired by the Spirit, said, "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness," Rom 6:18. One may be freed from one kind of slavery, but he will inevitably be brought under the control of another kind of slavery. Those who were made free by The Emancipation Proclamation were not free to do as they pleased. They ceased being mere chattel for their masters; but they were brought under the laws of the land. If one is free from righteousness, he is the slave of sin; if he is freed from sin, he becomes the servant of God. Everyone serves someone.

Service to God is a deliberate action. It is a choice made. There is no

force involved saving for the force of one's own intelligent reaction to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel forces one to this new slavery by imposing upon him a sense of righteousness and judgment and a sorrow for sin. It only forces one to serve because he comes to know and love God. This new yoke, Mt 11:30, is easy to bear, its burden light compared to the imposing slavery of sin and the yoke it imposes.

Service to God is man's only way to glorify Him. There is no other. Mental assent may bring some satisfaction to the mind, but it brings little glory to God. Even pangs of conscience may well say something about where a man is headed, but it does not, by itself, glorify God. Only service glorifies God. Adopting the attitudes He recommends, bringing oneself deliberately under His control, performing, to the best of one's ability, His requirements and

leaving off His prohibitions constitutes service. Without these things in their proper places, there is only admission, not service. True service brings the whole man into subservience to God.

To serve God one must put himself totally at God's disposal. There must be no room left in the heart for any god of any sort, but Him only. One must sanctify Him; give Him the high place He deserves. That speaks not only to faith, but to trust and confidence as well. It speaks to allowing Him complete control in one's life. Any less is double-minded devotion and such a mental division of affection is not acceptable to Him. Please note that such submission not only brings Him glory, but it brings glory to the person who submits as well. Man never operates at a higher level of efficiency, nor does he ever come closer to the fulfillment of his design for being, than when he is totally disposed to serve his Maker.

Service to God is eminently practical. It makes sense. It is practical because of what it does for man. Man is made better by serving God. His ideals are more substantive, his goals are more sensible, His labors more effective, his hope more lofty. It makes no sense at all to lay up treasures on earth when nature itself teaches that the earth eventually claims its patrons, leaving them penniless and powerless. It makes good sense to lay up treasures in heaven where God has assured that the investment will pay dividends so

rich that our finite minds fail to accurately comprehend them. Such rewards are the result of service to God. Notice, I said the "result," of such service. These rewards are provided by the grace of God; but they are for those who choose to serve Him. There will be no such rewards for those who deliberately choose a life of service to the mundane.

In its purest sense, service is an offering. Service is a sacrifice of oneself to God. Paul indicates such in Romans 12:1, when he says, "present your bodies a living sacrifice to God." He speaks of such as "your reasonable service." It is reasonable because it makes sense; it makes sense because it is reasonable. This offering is a presentation—one presents himself to God to be used as He sees fit. "Here am I Lord, send me" is the mantra of the true servant. You give your life, you give your heart, and you give your being to Him. He is yours and you are His. Beside Him there is no other. It is this giving in service that makes it a "living" sacrifice; it is alive, active.

Service is a measurement of one's love for God. If you serve Him faithfully, you love Him dearly. If you serve Him sporadically, you love him sporadically. You must measure your love yourself; and you measure your love by appraising your service to Him. Is it total? Is it unrestrained, unrestricted, unlimited?

Choose this day whom you will serve.

—via *The Southside Reminder*, Pasadena, Texas. 

“Baptized in Pickle Juice”

by *Jim R. Everett*

Sour, doleful, grumpy, disgruntled, complaining, negative, irritable, discontented—all describe the kind of person who seems to wallow in his misery and, not content therewith, loves to cause others misery as well. Perhaps you have seen this kind of person who claims to be a disciple? And, how he claims to be a real follower/learner of Jesus presents an insurmountable incongruity. “Baptized in pickle juice” (as brother Jack Wirtz describes them) conveys a graphic figure of their misery in their religion.

The NT record indicates the rejoicing of those who were baptized into Christ. They were baptized in water for the remission of their sins and, upon being raised

from baptism, understood that their souls had been cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ—note the rejoicing of the Ethiopian treasurer and the Philippian jailer who rejoiced with all his house, Acts 8:39; 16:34. Baptized believers understood that they had become new creatures and when raised from the watery grave of baptism, realized that they had escaped the old man of sin and were beginning a new life, 2 Cor 5:17; Rom 6:1-7.

“Baptized in pickle juice?” No way! Not one who has obeyed from the heart! The baptized believer rejoices daily in his fellowship with Christ, 1 Jn 1:1-3. You hear it when he talks—you see it when he walks.

—via the website of the Cedar Park church of Christ. 

Remember in Prayer

Hazel is doing better, and has been moved to Encompass Rehab Hospital, Huntsville, Room 122!

Pray for **brethren suffering persecution** for the gospel, Eph 6:18-20. Pray for **one another's**

spiritual growth, Col 1:9,10. Pray for **the spread of the gospel**, 1 Tim 2:1-4,8.

Please continue to pray for **Mike B; Carolyn; Betty; Kathy Mitchell; and the Pollard Family.** 