

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:

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless...”

— Ephesians 5:25-27

**Servants during December/January:**

Songleader: Dwight (22), Stanley (29), Larry (1/5), Dwight (12), Stanley (19), Larry (26)

Reading: Stanley; Mike M (Jan)

Announcements: Larry; Stanley (Jan)

Table: Mike M, Marty, Stanley; Larry, Marty, Mike M (Jan)

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (25),

Stanley (1/1), Kris (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris (29)

Area Meetings:

Eastside (Athens), Sundays 3pm, various speakers

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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The Glorious Church

By Robert F. Turner

Christ “loved the church, and gave Himself for it;” (so reads Eph 5:25).

“**THAT**” (Greek “hina”—“so that, in order that”) “he might sanctify and cleanse it—” v26.

“**THAT**” (hina) “he might present it to himself a glorious church.” This “glorious” church is defined as one “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing;” but one that is “holy and without blemish.” It is a fitting description of the bride of Christ.

Love is the motive that prompted Christ’s sacrifice; and the instruments of sanctification and cleansing are here stated as “the washing of water by the word.”

Carefully read Eph 5:25-27 and ask yourself these questions: (1) **HOW** is the church sanctified and cleansed; and (2) **WHEN** does this take place?

We note that some seem to think there is a future time when, by some process undefined, Christ will cleanse the present filthy, sinful church. Current imperfections are thus excused. We beg to differ with this traditional interpretation. We do not question the future reception of the church as the bride of Christ, 2 Cor 11:2-3; Rev 21:2; but we believe the “setting apart” and “cleansing” is **NOW** taking place, and has been in process ever since the gospel of Christ was first preached. To be in the “glorious” church of the future, one must be sanctified and cleansed **NOW**.

Christ died for a church yet in prospect, Mt 16:18. He “purchased with his own blood” individuals of the first and following centuries who would receive Him gladly. (And in a

very real sense, for those of past centuries who had put their trust in Jehovah.) The church does not save, i.e., one is not saved **because he is in** the church; but the church **IS the saved**. Upon being saved from past sin one is added to Christ's church. Christ is the saving power; "church" views "as one" those who are saved.

Our text says Christ sanctifies and cleanses "with the washing of water by the word." We believe this refers to the water of baptism, to the act by which we "put on Christ," Gal 3:27. But baptism is valid only as a divine injunction, done in keeping with God's word. We are sanctified by truth, Jn 17:17.

One by one, individuals are forgiven of their sins as they obey the gospel of Christ. Thus, they come into

the church cleansed and pure. But the future sins must also be cleansed; so "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." In 1 Jn 1:5ff we are shown the means of fellowship with God, and are assured of Christ's assistance in maintaining this fellowship. Repenting of each sin, we pray God through Christ for continual cleansing, Acts 8:22-24.

Then I must conclude that **the church distributively is cleansed**, as saints repent and turn to the Lord day by day. The "glorious" church is that group of saints who serve Christ faithfully **NOW**—and are **NOW** being made ready for that great day when the Lord shall return in the clouds to claim His own.

—via **Plain Talk**, December, 1966 

Two Men Can't Agree on Religion

By Bill Hall

Two men are religious, and both seem to be sincere, but they never seem to agree on religious questions. A brief look at their applications of the Bible helps to explain their problem.

The first man views the Bible as the complete and final answer to all religious questions pertaining to salvation. For him, a clear statement from the Bible ends all controversy. His simple approach is well stated by

a bumper sticker we have seen: "God said it; I believe it; that settles it." In fact, he would agree that God's word "settles it" whether he believes it or not.

The second man relies on several sources for his religious beliefs. He believes the Bible and many of his convictions are based on what the Bible says. But he also is convinced that he has been "led" into certain

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