

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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“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?”



— 2 Corinthians 13:5

Servants during January:

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

Reading: Mike M

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Marty, Mike M

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

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

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

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“...Do I Have To?”

By Kris Vilander

“*Do I Have To?*” Anyone that has had children has likely heard this multiple times: the sound of an immature voice that doesn’t yet understand what is best for them (“eat your vegetables”); what is a blessing to others (“let’s go visit the nursing home”); or even what may be a simple expression of love (“write her a note to say ‘thank you’”). When the question is asked, it reveals a problem of the heart: that one is thinking only of their own likes or dislikes, not mindful of what is really needful for them or others. We ought to have patience with children—they are growing, learning; yet, these are serious problems and have to be dealt with—for their good and everyone else’s.

Paul was dealing with immature brethren both times that he wrote to the Thessalonians; they had been Christians for less than a year and a half or so. In 2 Thess 3:10, we read, “For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.” This was a serious issue, too, so

Paul was dealing with it sternly—and in context, with love and concern for all (v14,15).

But think for a moment: what if someone simply *could* not work? Whom would be condemned? Not the one who was *unable* to work, but the one who that was *unwilling* to work.

Sometimes we are asked if it is necessary for a Christian to meet with the church—sometimes it is frankly stated, “I don’t need to.” That the question is asked may reveal something of the heart of the questioner; even so, let me point out why it *is* necessary—unless the Lord excuses you.

The Holy Spirit chose to record for you and me in Heb 10:24,25 “...And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (HCSB)

Considering this verse, a primary reason to meet with the church is that it is commanded; and not only to do so

faithfully, but for that meeting to be all the more important to us as time goes on!

Secondly, in that meeting, we inspire love for each another as well as others, push each other in a positive way to do good works, and encourage one another in general. We all understand that even those things that are good for us can become a chore at times; but when we are part of a team, we are motivated in ways that we never would be by ourselves! God planned for the local church to act as a team: all serving the same Lord and Master, helping one another to press on to the same goal, Phil 2:1-4; 1:27.

A third reason is that the converse is true as well; when we choose not to meet (not that we cannot, but when we choose not to), it is a discouragement. It can cause other's love to grow cold, and can dissuade them from doing good works. Moses called that kind of behavior sin: Num 32:6,23, "...Shall your brothers go to war while you yourselves sit here? (23) ...be sure your sin will find you out," (Read the context). Each one of us is an example for someone—either good or bad; and particularly for the young, both spiritually and physically. They will see our priorities and may well choose to adopt them... and we may find that we will have caused a "little one who believes" to stumble, Mk 9:42. That would be disastrous for all involved.

A fourth reason is that choosing not to meet exposes us as not "holding fast" to our hope in Christ; rather, we may be choosing apostasy—"shrink[ing] back to destruction," Heb 10:23,39. That should be a frightening place for us to be.


I have known of folks that say that they just can't get anything out of meeting with other brethren; that they are spiritually more mature, or know the scriptures better than others, so that they feel they benefit more from private Bible study—as for worship, they can do that right where they are. It may well be true that they are more knowledgeable (as for maturity, to make such a statement would argue otherwise); but what about the blessings of fellowship found in these verses from Hebrews, blessings both for themselves and for others? Meeting with the church is not simply about worship; nor is it simply about what we, individually, get out of it!

Paul was concerned that when he came to see the brethren in Corinth, he would find them behaving in worldly ways; so he charged them, "**Test yourselves** to see if you are in the faith; **examine yourselves!** Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?" (2 Cor 13:5). If you don't meet with your brethren each opportunity available, why don't you? If our text in Hebrews is any gauge, while the one unable to meet is not condemned, **the one that is unwilling certainly is**. Self-examination is urgent, so that you can make changes if you fail the test!

But the fact that we are to test ourselves doesn't mean that others don't (...or shouldn't) ever make judgments based on our behavior. While we must be careful how we judge, we are known by our fruit (Lk 6:44)—which is why it is so hard on the brethren in a local work when they see some that choose to do other

things rather than meet with them to study God's word or to worship Him. The truth is that the Lord knows what we are able to do, and what we cannot; he gives us every good thing we have, and allows every trial we endure—he knows our limitations. We can trust him to make the right decisions about our behavior every time. Yet, unlike God, we and our brethren are not

omniscient—so we would do well to share with others our trials, and let them know if we are simply unable to meet with them, rather than unwilling.


Again, sometimes we are asked if it is necessary for a Christian to meet with the church—sometimes, we are even told, "I don't need to." Indeed, **it is necessary**—unless the Lord excuses you. 

“What the Seat Can Endure”

By Connie Adams

Every now and then we are treated to the wisdom that “the mind can only absorb what the seat can endure.” This is offered to prompt preachers to be brief. I do not favor repetitious sermons, or rambling discourses without apparent design. Every speaker needs to build a rapport with his audience and be alert to signs of weariness or loss of interest.

Every speaker cannot hold an audience for long periods of time. But it needs to be said that the seat can endure whatever the mind wills. Whatever occupies the mind will determine very often what the seat can endure. That is what enables people to sit for hours to drive to a vacation spot or to see relatives long missed. That is what empowers us to stay strapped in a seat on a jet plane across the country, or halfway around the world.

That is what caused me to sit for 7 hours in a school taught by a physical therapist a few weeks after back surgery, with only five minutes stretch every hour. That is what causes people to sit through baseball double-headers and football games. The mind wills it and the seat endures it. The saying is catchy and usually draws a laugh, but it is the reverse of the truth. Let's get it straight—“The seat can endure what the mind wills it to endure.” 

Remember in Prayer

Mike B has a spot in his lung that has grown significantly since October; testing continues to determine best course of treatment. Believing that she had never truly obeyed the gospel,

Kaylee was baptized into Christ last Sunday! Pray also for **Barbara; Betty; Carolyn; Faye; Hazel; Joshua V; Kathy M; Mark Horton; Mike B and his family; Pam; and the Pollard Family.** 