

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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“Come, you who are
 blessed of My Father,
 inherit the kingdom
 prepared for you
 from the foundation
 of the world,”

—Matthew 25:34

**Servants during May:**

Songleader: Larry (3), Dwight (10),
 Stanley (17), Larry (24), Dwight (31)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Stanley, Mary, Mike

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (6), Larry (13),
 Stanley (20), Kris (27)

Lawn Mowing (week starting, unless
 contracted out): Larry (3), Marty (10),
 Kris (17), Stanley (24), Larry (31)

Area Meetings:

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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Preparing to Die Well

By Gary Kerr

I love to read. I do a lot of reading of all kinds, including things to help me in my work of preaching. However, I also try to set aside some time every day to do some “recreational” reading on a variety of subjects, usually history-related. Several years ago I enjoyed very much reading Robert V. Remini’s three-volume biography of Andrew Jackson, our eighth president. The second volume of that set is entitled ***The Course of American Freedom, 1822-1832***, and in it I found the following story.

In June, 1832, a massive cholera epidemic hit the United States, having been transported to this country from Europe. It has been estimated that between June 1st and November 1st, some three-thousand people died from this disease, and one of the hardest hit cities in the U.S. was Washington D.C. Nearing the end of his first term, President Andrew Jackson,

already in poor health at age 65, was warned by his family back in Tennessee to get out of Washington and return to the Hermitage, his plantation home near Nashville, to ride out the epidemic. Jackson eventually did return to Tennessee, but not until July. Prior to his departure (June 21st), Jackson wrote a letter to his beloved daughter-in-law, Sarah, to calm her fears for his health. In that letter, he said, in part:

“My Dear Sarah, Knowing that we have to die we ought to live to be prepared to die well, and then, let death come when it may, we will meet it without alarm, and be ready to say, ‘The Lord’s will be done.’”
 (Remini, p387).

To be honest, this statement took me by surprise. Jackson spent most of his life a skeptic at best, believing most, if not all, organized religions were out to take money

from the masses, and were harmful to society. He did claim to accept Christ, on the urging of his wife Rachel, just prior to her death in 1828, and he “professed” religion from then until his death in 1845. However, even his admiring biographer Remini refers to the above statement as “pious fatalism,” the last hope of an old man who desperately missed his wife and wanted some hope that he might be with her again.

Whatever Jackson’s spiritual condition might have been, I believe he expressed poignantly and accurately a Scriptural truth that we all must accept. The author of the book of Hebrews says, “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,” Heb 9:27. Jackson was right! We all have to die, and we will all stand before God in judgment. How much calmer, how much more

serene, how much more composed could we be approaching our own deaths than knowing that we had “lived well,” and that we were prepared to face that judgment of God and hear Him say, “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,” Mt 25:34.

What about you? Are you striving to “live well” so that you can go to Heaven? If not, then you are, in the words of a wonderful old song, “unprepared to meet your God,” and should face the prospect of your own approaching death with alarm! Why not correct that situation while you have opportunity? When you do, you will know what Jackson was talking about, what Paul called that “peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,” Phil 4:7. 📖

*Will you love me
in December?*

By Warren E. Berkley

Care giving responsibilities are learning experiences. For several years we’ve been taking care of my mother-in-law, who suffers with Alzheimer’s. First, we cared for her in

our home. Two years ago she needed a level of care that required her admission into a nursing home. We are there several times during the week, often daily. I see things that

may be unpleasant but I’m learning valuable lessons.

Most nursing homes (since 2003) have paid “feeding assistants.” They may not be nurses or nurses’ aides, though they should be under professional supervision. A feeding assistant completes eight hours of state-approved training. The course deals with very basic things like feeding techniques, hydration, hygiene, emergency choking procedures, how to handle patients who have problems with swallowing, etc. The charge nurse may or may not oversee. The feeding assistants sit at a “feeding station,” surrounded by four to five patients, moving on swivel chair from patient to patient—feeding the residents who need help. It is a rather mechanical procedure; necessary but not best.

There is a man who comes to the nursing home every day at meal times to feed his wife, who cannot eat without assistance.

He knows his wife through many years of care. He is the most competent one to feed her, knowing exactly what she likes, the pace of her eating and the size of the bites. What’s more, he takes great delight in

this task. He feeds her with quiet dignity, and perhaps an occasional sadness is felt as he remembers their younger years. He tends the wife of his youth with napkin, as she would do for him. All of this is done with such care and patience that it is tempting to stare with delight and admiration at this example of a husband’s long lasting love, “through sickness and in health.” His capacity to do this job was not learned. Unconditional love certifies him as best for the job.

It is not my purpose to imply criticism of the feeding assistants, editorialize about institutional care, or impose any rules on family members. I only wanted to say, the best caregivers are not trained in a course, but nurtured in real relationships over time. See more about this in Ephesians 5:25-33. And consider this...

*Will you love me in December as
you do in May?*

*Will you love me in the good old
fashioned way?*

*When my hair has all turned gray,
Will you kiss me then and say*

*That you love me in December as
you do in May?*

(Poem by James J. Walker) 📖

Remember in Prayer

Alice has had some skin issues that are still in the process of being tested. **Carolyn** has apparently been in a good deal of pain, recently. Please

continue to pray **Betty** (although she was able to meet with us, recently!); **Hazel**; **Marie** and **Billy**; as well as **John**, **Sylvia**, and **Paige Pollard**.