

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

“...When all the people
 saw it, they fell
 facedown and said,
**‘Yahweh, He is God!
 Yahweh, He is God!’”**

—1 Kings 18:39 HCSB

**Servants during June:**

Songleader: Stanley (7), Larry
 (14), Dwight (21), Stanley (28)

Reading: Stanley

Announcements: Larry

Table: Stanley, Marty, Larry

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (3), Stanley (10),
 Kris (17), Larry (24)

Area Meetings:
 Pleasant Valley, 21-25, Tom Holley

*Let's prepare for our upcoming meeting
 Sept 13-16 with Jonathan Carswell!*

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road
 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 8

June 21, 2026

Number 49

A Godly Man in Wicked Surroundings

By Bill Hall

Elijah was a man who reached true greatness in the Lord's service. He was always ready to go where God would send him, 1 Kings 18:1; 19:15; to pray whenever prayer was needed, 1 Kings 17:20,21; 18:36,37; and to confront evil whenever confrontation was necessary 1 Kings 18:17-24; 21:17-19. He was translated without seeing death, and he, along with Moses, was chosen to appear with the Lord on the mount of transfiguration.

The remarkable thing about Elijah is that he attained this greatness while living in a wicked and hostile environment. Had he lived in Judah during the righteous reign of Hezekiah or Josiah, we might not be surprised at Elijah's attainments. But he lived instead in Israel during the wicked reign of Ahab. He was subjected to the cruel intents of Jezebel. He was under constant


harassment and threat of death. He became so discouraged at one point that he asked to die, but he never denied his God.

In this wicked environment Elijah was able to influence others. The widow of Zarephath was blessed through Elijah, 1 Kings 17:8-24. The multitudes on Mount Carmel were led to cry, “The LORD, He is God!” through his courageous efforts, 1 Kings 18:39. Elisha, his successor, must have been greatly influenced by him. And even Ahab was brought to humility on one occasion, clothing himself in sackcloth as a result of Elijah's rebuke, 1 Kings 21:27-29. The message of Elijah is clear. You can live a godly life and influence others for good in a wicked and hostile environment.

When one hears the excuses people make today, it is obvious that Elijah's message is badly needed in

this generation. People excuse their failure to teach others the gospel with, "People are so prejudiced around here they just won't listen"; when the truth is, little effort has been made. If they are approached about their ungodly conduct, they explain that "You just don't know how terrible the people are that I have to work around every day". If their children go astray their explanation is,

"Our children are faced with pressures that we didn't have growing up". Such statements, repeated often enough, become to many a "license" to do wrong and a salve to soothe their troubled consciences.

We must throw aside our excuses and make up our minds to do right. Elijah could serve God in wicked surroundings. And so can we. 

The True Measure

By Bob Buchanon

A young boy came running into the house very excited shouting, "Mother, Mother, I am nine feet tall!" His mother reminded him that he was exaggerating and was talking nonsense. He responded that he knew for a fact that he was nine feet tall. "What makes you think so?" she asked. "Because I measured myself," he replied. "How did you measure yourself?" the mother inquired. "I took off my shoe," said the boy, "and measured myself with that. It is just the same size of my foot, and I really am nine feet tall." This little lad was very sincere in believing he was nine feet tall, but he was using the wrong measure. Man is also prone to measure himself by his own ruler, especially when it comes to his religion. Let us consider some of these false measures.

Many people use their emotions and their "feelings" as their measure.


Emotionalism is a false standard and proves nothing to be right or wrong. Feelings depend on what we believe (look at the example in Genesis 37) while faith comes by hearing the Word of God, Rom 10:17. Many honest and sincere people wouldn't give their "feelings" for all the Bibles in the world. A frequently used statement is, "I know that I am saved because I can feel it in my heart." The Bible says, "He that trusts in his own heart is a fool," Prov 28:26. God did not say that you can know that you are saved by the way you feel. This is a false measure.

Many people will also use their parents and grand-parents as the measure for right and wrong. Many say, "They were members of the same church that I am, and what was good enough for them is good enough for me." Most people are what they are, religiously, on the basis of what their

parents were. I am not trying to "run down" your ancestry, but they could have been wrong. You are following tradition and Jesus said, you have "...invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition," Mt 15:6. Perhaps you have had an opportunity to study, learn and develop more than your parents. We think nothing of changing politics or of buying a Chevrolet when Dad always bought a Ford. We make many decisions and do many things against the will of our parents. The reason, possibly, that we hold back on the question of religion is because it is the most important decision in our life. Friend, a love for Jesus must be greater love than a love for parents. Jesus said, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me," Mt 10:37. Can you read in the Bible of the church to which your parents are a member? If not, leave that church. Use the Bible as your measure. The testimony of great men is often used instead of the Bible. Denominational people often quote some great religious leader to prove their point. Some honest people will read from Albert Barnes, Clarke, or some other great scholar, and take the word of these

commentaries over the Word of God. All men are fallible and we cannot have so much confidence in them, but we can remain faithful to God even if these men depart from the faith. Our faith must not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God, 1 Cor 2:5.

Several people use manuals and creed books as their measure. These books are written by men. Decisions are made in conferences. The conferences write what that denomination is to believe and practice. How do these conferences know what God wants? They don't! Paul said, "...Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God," 1 Cor 2:11. Bible writers wrote by inspiration. They knew the will of God. Creed writers are uninspired. Their creeds are the wrong measure.

Let us use the Bible for our measure. It is "...profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work," 2 Tim 3:16,17. Let us speak where the Bible speaks, be silent where the Bible is silent; do Bible things in Bible ways and give them Bible names. This is the true measure. 

Remember in Prayer

Larry's mother, **Polly**, is still recovering from a serious fall. **Betty** briefly came home, but has returned to the hospital—this time due to very high blood pressure. Please continue

to pray for **Carolyn; Hazel; Marie and Billy**; as well as **Cindy's** parents (**Don and Jackie Churches**), and her brother **Kenny**, who cares for them; and **John, Sylvia**, and **Paige Pollard**.