

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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"...man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD."

—Deuteronomy 8:3b

**Servants during June/July:**

Songleader: Stanley (6/28),
 Larry (7/5), Dwight (12),
 Stanley (19), Larry (26)

Reading: Stanley; Mike (July)

Announcements: Larry;
 Stanley (July)

Table: Stanley, Marty, Larry;
 Larry, Marty, Mike (July)

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (6/24), Stanley
 (7/1), Kris (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris
 (29)

Area Meetings:

**Gooch Lane, 6/28-7/1, Bubba Garner
 Anderson, 7/19-22, Kyle Pope**

***Don't forget our 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

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God is Concerned About "Little Things," Too

By Paul Earnhart

The order of Jesus' model prayer makes clear that the glory of God and the accomplishing of His will in the world must always be at the heart of the life and thinking of the Christian. His prayers, like his life, should begin and end there. It is on just such a note that the section of the sermon which contains this instructive prayer concludes, Mt 6:33. Yet this does not preclude the bringing of our own needs and burdens to God's throne. This is made evident by the three (some say four) concluding requests of the prayer, Mt 6:11-13. These all center on basic human necessities.

"Give us this day our daily bread," Mt 6:11. With these words the Lord makes a sudden shift from the exalted to the commonplace. The apparent discontinuity of it caused many of the ancient commentators to spiritualize the "bread," but there is nothing in the context to justify it. On the face of things it just seems that physical considerations should be left till last,

after forgiveness and the strength to endure temptation. But that is not where Jesus put them (either here or in Lk 11:2-4). He certainly does not intend that physical necessities become life's overriding concern, Mt 6:19-32, but He is also not discounting their importance. The "Word" who became flesh understood from experience the bodily needs of men, Heb 2:18; 4:15, and demonstrated how seriously He took them in His compassion for the sick and hungry, Mk 1:40,41; Mt 15:32; 25:41-43. The inclusion of this brief petition demonstrates that there is no matter so small that we may not with confidence bring it to our Father. Paul urges this: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication... let your requests be made known to God," Phil 4:6. Peter says the same: "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you," 1 Pet 5:7. Once we have determined to do His will at all costs, we may speak freely to Him of all our needs from the

least to the greatest.

This simple petition speaks not only of God's wide-ranging concern but of our own complete dependence on Him. "Bread" as here used likely stands for all of life's bodily needs—food, shelter, health, family, etc. In any case we cannot by our own unaided strength supply one of them. As Clovis Chappell once observed, we could no more create one loaf of bread than we could create the universe. "The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness," Psa 24:1. Hence we have no real choice but to trust God even at the most elemental level.

The English translation "daily bread" is somewhat of an educated guess since the Greek word for "daily" occurs nowhere else for certain in Greek literature. It may suggest bread for the day ahead or bread sufficient to sustain us. In either case Jesus teaches us to ask for no more than a day's supply. This is a tough assignment for people like ourselves who are inclined to fall to pieces without a lifetime provision in hand and fully insured. If we follow the Lord's counsel we will quit trusting in bread, Jn 6:25, and learn to lean wholly on God and His promises. Learning to live trustingly with what we

have each day calls to mind God's manna experiment with Israel while they were in the wilderness. "He humbled you," wrote Moses, "allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna... that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD," Deut 8:3. Jesus had used this passage once to great advantage, Mt 4:4. We can do the same.

However much, then, it might have seemed at first that this prayer for bread was prayer from a very low ground, it turns out to have a powerful spiritual benefit. It teaches us faith. And this is a prayer for the poor and the rich alike; for no matter how little or how much we have or how hard we struggle to obtain and keep it, God alone can secure it. If we will learn to trust Him, God's children can live serenely in the confidence once expressed by the aged David: "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread," Psa 37:25. And if we learn this kind of trust about bread, it will free us to get about the things that are even more important. 📖

gait is faltering. Did you not realize that these are my heralds?"

"Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not," Hos 7:9.

In his comments on this verse, G. Campbell Morgan wrote that what's asserted is contrary to nature. In Hosea, the Heart and Holiness of God (p. 71), he pointed out that people generally notice gray hairs as soon as they appear. They may smile at them, pluck them, or dye them, but they know they're there.

Hosea told Israel the nation had swerved from its destiny. Meant to shine as a light in the world, Israel had mingled with the pagans, learned their depravities, and worshipped their idols—compromising themselves to where they lost their moral strength. "Israel has gray hairs, and they don't know it," proclaimed the prophet. It's a memorable figure of speech describing spiritual decay.

Early detection. "When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered," Hos 7:1. We're bombarded with medical admonitions to detect early signs of disease, because if caught early, many conditions can be treated. Early on, God diagnosed Israel's problem, but Israel

ignored the diagnosis, and the problem worsened to where it was incurable, 2 Chron 36:16.

Oblivious to the obvious. "Now their own deeds have surrounded them," Hos 7:2. When we're inattentive and finally wake up to reality, we can find ourselves in a strange place and wonder, "How did I get here?" The answer, often, is that we got here due to a dull heart, unseeing eyes, and unhearing ears—we were inattentive, uninterested, and unconcerned in what was happening around us and to us, Mt 13:15.

Half-baked. "Ephraim is a cake unturned," Hos 7:8. A failure to judge and discipline ourselves doesn't lead to greater growth and stability, but it can cause our lusts and desires to overheat, worsen, and enflame us emotionally, Hos 7:4–7, leaving us like a cake that's cooked on the outside but raw on the inside, that makes God vomit, Rev 3:16.

Returning to the figure of the gray hair, let's be careful not to think we're in our prime when all the signs say we're spiritually geriatric, decrepit, and frail, Hos 7:10.

It's a terrible thing to wake up some day and realize we're on the brink of eternity and not be prepared for it. 📖

A Great Text from Hosea

By Kenny Chumley

There's an ancient legend in which Death and a man reach an agreement. Death pledges not to come upon the man suddenly; it would give the man forewarnings before the final assault by the king of terrors. One day, to the

man's surprise, he was confronted by Death, and he protested that no warning had been given! No notice had been sent! "No warning given?" said Death. "Your hair is gray, your eyes are dim, you are missing teeth, and your

Remember in Prayer

Larry's mother, **Polly**, is doing some better, but is still recovering from a serious fall. Give God thanks: **Betty** is back home from the hospital; and her brother-in-law, **Steve**, got the good news that while he is not cancer free, nothing is active at the moment! **Hazel**

is also doing well! Please continue to pray for **Carolyn**; **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**.