

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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"All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness,"

—Hebrews 12:11

**Servants during August/September:**

Songleader: Larry (30), Stanley (9/6), Larry (13), Stanley (20), Larry (27)

Reading: Larry; Stanley (Sept)

Announcements: Marty; Larry (Sept)

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

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (9/2), Kris (9), Larry (16), Stanley (23), Kris (30)

Area Meetings:

Gooch Lane, 9/6, Bill Hall;

Market Street, 9/13-16, Jason Shackelford

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 Call to Extremes

By Leslie Diestelkamp

Throughout the ages God has always challenged the people who would come near to Him to extraordinary circumstances. He has never been content with the usual, the moderate, the ordinary. His commands and His promises have usually been quite extreme indeed.

The command to Adam and Eve was extreme, especially when it is realized that the fruit of the forbidden tree was good to look upon and that all other fruit was acceptable. Why exclude that one tree alone? The requirement of Noah was certainly an extreme one, especially when we realize that he could have no conception of such flooding as it was foretold, and that he could also not possibly visualize the great structure he was to erect. The commandment to Abraham to sacrifice his son was extraordinary, especially when we remember that

this very son was the only son of Abraham and Sarah, that he was the son of their old age, and that he was the subject of promises for future generations, all of which depended, not upon his early death, but upon his life.

The extraordinary results of certain human action—results that were of obvious divine origin—were also significant. Uzzah's immediate death because of his disobedience, Naaman's immediate healing because of his obedience, and the instant punishment upon Nadab and Abihu all demonstrate the unconventional nature of God's action—the extreme nature of His promises and His threats.

It is safe to say right here that God is never satisfied with the ordinary. In the following five ways at least, we see the nature of God's

demands that our religion be in the extreme—that it is to be extraordinary religion:

...We must base our hope on such extremely unworldly things such as the virgin birth, the resurrection of the dead, the cleansing power of the blood of the cross, the precious gift of salvation by grace without human merit, the requirement that we walk by faith and not by sight, and the hope of the ultimate reward of a non-earthly, non-physical home in heaven.

...We must obey such apparently unreasonable commands without asking “Why?” Anyone who can see through a barrel with both ends knocked out knows there is no power in water to wash away guilt in the soul; but God has chosen to make water baptism a rigid condition of pardon by His grace. The command to repent may be quite reasonable, for we can see merit in such human action that leads to reformation; but the command to be baptized seems extreme to many since it involves no human merit.

...God demands that His followers give up so much. Jesus taught that if our eye offends us, “pluck it out.” He taught that if one finds a real treasure (salvation), he will “sell all he has” to secure it. And He taught that if one doesn’t love

God more than relatives, he can’t please God.

...Furthermore, we must follow Christ so very closely—extremely closely. If we put our hand to the plow and look back, we are not even fit for His kingdom. In other words, He doesn’t want followers who wish they had stayed in the world or who begrudge the sacrifices they make as His disciples. Those who follow Christ reluctantly might just as well not follow Him at all. Those who run the race lazily and those who fight the good fight carelessly don’t measure up to the extraordinary discipleship God demands.

...Even with regard to the service we render, God requires extremes. Our worship must not be in formality, ceremony, and ritual, but in spirit and in truth. Our benevolence must not be simply in bestowing love upon those who love us and upon others who are altogether lovable, but it must be in extending real love to our enemies, to the unworthy, to those who are all together unlovely and even quite unlovable.

Yes, God has called us to extremes. There is nothing mediocre or commonplace in the things that separate God’s very own people from the people of the world. His commands are explicit and exacting. And His promises are superlative—supreme in excellence.



A Mess *or* Beauty

By Joseph Girzone

There will always be pain and hurt in life. You cannot grow without it. Pain and suffering are the dark strands weaving through the tapestry of our life, providing the shadows that give depth and dimension to the masterpiece God is fashioning within you. Athletes embrace stress and pain as they prepare their bodies for the contest. You are made strong and refined though your hardships and struggles. They may not be punishment for sin. They are the necessary ingredients of life if you are to grow in God's image. If God is to mold the human clay of which you are made, into something that resembles Himself that process

cannot help but be painful.

So, be patient! Know that your pain is not in vain, nor is it a punishment. God is too big to pick on people when, in their weakness, they fall. When you do things that are hurtful, God like a kind father, or more a tender mother, makes adjustments in your life to remind you that your actions are hurting others or yourself and prompts you to make changes. However, God is never cruel. He accepts you where you are and is very patient as you turn ever so slowly back to His love. He weaves everything, even your sins, into good when you reach out to Him. [Heb 12:7-11 —KV]



*Remember to invite your friends to
our upcoming meeting
September 13-16 with Jonathan Carswell*



~ Remember in Prayer ~

Kathy M is scheduled to have surgery this Friday, 9/4. **Dwight** has been able to come home; please continue to pray for him and **Shirley**. **Pam's** son-in-law's father (**Scotty's dad**) is hospitalized

following in a serious motorcycle accident.

Let's not forget **Carolyn**; **Hazel**; **Larry's mother, Polly**; **Cindy's parents** and **brother**; and **John**, **Sylvia**, and **Paige Pollard**.