

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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"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also,"

—2 Timothy 2:2

**Servants during September:**

Songleader: Stanley (6), Larry (13), Stanley (20), Larry (27)

Reading: Stanley

Announcements: Larry

Table: Larry, Marty, Stanley

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

Area Meetings:

Pepper Road, 19-23, Wes Brown;

Ephesus, 20-23, Mitchell Dalrymple;

South Cullman, 27-30, Don Truex;

Ardmore, 27-30, Various

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 9

September 20, 2026

Number 9

Two Ways to Keep Members Faithful

By Bill Hall

There are two ways to keep members of the church "faithful."

The first way is to be sure everyone is involved. Have a project for each member, and make sure that he feels important in his role. Praise him for the good job he is doing. Make him feel needed; make him feel that the well-being of the whole congregation rests firmly on his shoulders. That will keep him "faithful." There are two problems with this method. In the first place, it encourages the creation of projects that are not remotely related to the work of the local church. One member plays on the church ball team; another leads the Boy Scout troop; another is an active member of the "Dorcas Society"; another plans the program for the men's luncheon. Everybody is busy all right, but in activities that are not authorized in the New Testament.

In the second place, members are often given roles for which they are not qualified. A lady is chosen to teach a class, not because she is qualified, but because she needs to be involved. A man is appointed a deacon to help him to be "faithful." Another man is appointed to serve the Lord's Supper for a month in order to encourage him to be present each Sunday that month. This method thus places "the cart before the horse," for no one should ever be assigned any work in the Lord's service who is not already faithful and qualified for the work to be done, 2 Tim 2:2.

The second way to keep people faithful is to develop within them a genuine love for the Lord. When people love the Lord, they will be faithful, and it won't take some kind of "special" project to keep them faithful. They will also be involved: in worship, in study, in prayer, in godly

living, in sharing the gospel with a friend, in helping the needy. I have known literally hundreds of Christians who have never in their lives been appointed to any special work, but whose love for the Lord alone keeps them faithful. There is no superficial

faithfulness on the part of these; theirs is a faithfulness that is real.

Special responsibilities are fine for those who are qualified, but the man who requires some special duty to be faithful has never learned what true faithfulness is. 

The Problem of Profanity

By Dee Bowman

Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, 'This is what the Lord spoke saying: By those who come near Me I must be regarded as Holy; And before all the people, I must be glorified.' So Aaron held his peace," Lev 10:1-3.

I am interested in the word "profane" in the above passage. It means irreverence for sacred things. Profanity is sinful because it bespeaks of a lack of regard for God. It may occur in either language or conduct, mind you, and is often seen in our age in the presumptuous undertaking of religious projects without duly constituted precedent. The profane actions of the sons of Aaron in the above narrative are the result of their taking the liberty to do as they

pleased, without regard for God. Such presumptive supposition caused them to commit their act of effrontery, and thereby bring the wrath of God upon them.

Seemingly man just can't seem to content himself with doing what God has commanded in the way He commanded it. He presumes upon God's commands just as did Nadab and Abihu. He wants to do it his way—and he far too often does. Without shame, he writes creeds, alters Scripture, changes authorized worship, and makes his own rules superior to the rules of God. I suppose there to be no more repugnant sight to God than the visage of the skillful religionist, adorned in the trappings of his own innovations, bowing in his own self-righteousness before the altar of his own making, and worshiping God in the way that he has himself concocted. Presumptuous!

Any sort of man-made creed is presumptuous. Any statement of belief that is more or less than Scripture cannot be pure Scripture, and is therefore odious to God. Any effort to add some new thing to what God has said must be met with immediate opposition by all God-fearing persons, since such innovations presume against the authority of the divine directive, 2 Jn 9. Conversely, we must studiously avoid any doctrine which would seek to please God with less than His word stipulates, for we simply don't have any assurance that He is pleased with less than what He has said, Jas 4:17. To substitute any human standard for the divine one is to invite sure spiritual disaster, Gal 1:6-9, for no matter how much "another gospel" seems to resemble the original, even the smallest change presumes upon the omniscient wisdom of the Most High God.

"Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to the Lord and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are My ways your ways,' says the

Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts," Isa 55:6-9.

There's a principle in that passage that cannot be ignored. It plainly states that we have no method high enough that when implemented will result in our return to God. Nor is there any inventive genius in man potent enough to bring about his salvation. Truly, "the way of man is not in himself," Jer 10:23. Only as he turns to God and allows Him to direct his life can he have the hope of redemption and eternal life. Any less is presumptive and will surely bring about his eventual doom.

Jesus is the true and living way, Jn 14:6; no man can return to the Father by his own creed, no matter how pious he may seem to be. Jesus gave man the teaching he needs, 2 Tim 3:16,17, and we must follow it, not his own inventions. Let us cast off the shackles of human reasoning; let us do away with the councils and synods, conventions and associations, and return to New Testament Christianity. "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." 1 Pet 4:11. 

Remember in Prayer

Theresa's mother is still at Vanderbilt; but **Kathy M** has gotten to return home from HH. **Faye's** cataract surgery went well; and our meeting went well also! Please pray for **Jonathan Carswell's** continued efforts

in preaching the gospel!

Let's not forget **Carolyn; Hazel; Larry's mother, Polly; Dwight and Shirley; Cindy's parents and brother; Joshua V** and his family; and **John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard.**