

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

"But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness,"

—1 Timothy 6:11

**Servants during October:**

Songleader: Stanley (4), Larry (11), Stanley (18), Larry (25)

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Mike, Larry, Marty

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (7), Stanley (14),

Kris (21), Larry (28)

Area Meetings:

Eastside (Athens), 25-28, Bill Hall

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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Flee These Things (Part 2)

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

Four times, Paul warns his readers to flee (twice to Corinthians and twice to Timothy). Our brother has already considered sexual immorality and idolatry; now he continues with...

Greed

Paul warns Timothy of all kinds of evil and sorrows produced by greed, 1 Tim 6: 10,11. One does not have to be rich to greedily love money. The warning here is directed primarily to servants, v1, and to God's man, Timothy, v11. When servants of men or servants of God set their minds on getting rich, they are asking for trouble. A Christian, who was a servant, needed not become a freedom fighter—he could be content with being free in Christ. He needed not be greedy of his master's goods (or anyone else's for that matter)—he was rich in Christ. Timothy was to withdraw from teachers who "suppose that godliness is a means of gain," v1-5. Temporal gain is not nearly as important as spiritual, v6-8. A Christian servant, content with the bare necessities ("food and clothing"), gains far more than any freedom and/or wealth gained by greed.

Timothy, a young evangelist, was not only to "teach and exhort these things," v2, he was to practice what he preached, v11. He was to "flee these things"—evils caused by an inordinate love of money. He was to neither make money his objective in preaching, nor be hindered from his work by it. J.W. McGarvey in one of his chapel talks, interestingly observed:

"Well, what is it [their preaching—eob] for? In order that you may get rich? There is not a man in the country green enough to think that is the way to get rich. And if there was a man thinking that he was going to be a preacher in order to get rich, he is too big a fool to be a preacher. And as soon as the people find out that is even one of your motives for preaching that will be the end of your preaching. There is not a man, woman or child in the country who wants to hear a preacher who is preaching for the money, and that one of his chief aims" (Chapel Talks, "Delivered Before the Student Body of The College of the Bible in 1910 and 1911," J.W. McGarvey, p18).

It is easy for young (some not so young) preachers to get into the money trap. Timothy was told to flee it. Materialism has a powerful pull. While there is room for improvement over the country, brethren's support of gospel preachers has improved in the last few years. The temptation to preach for the money is greater than in the past. The temptation to use preaching as a job until "something better comes along" is great. One may think of preaching to pay the rent and tuition until he can get enough education to qualify for a "good job." It can be a good way to have full-time pay for part-time work freeing time to build a secular side line into one's main line. Brethren, these observations may make some uncomfortable, but that is the way it is.

There are great and honorable men, who have tried full-time preaching and found out that it was not for them. They have wisely turned to other ways to make a living. Most of these are greater assets to the Lord's cause than if they had continued in full-time preaching. There are others who have never preached full time. They have made their living at secular work, preached wherever they might be needed, even receiving some financial support for this work. I have nothing but praise for these men. Nor are we critical of any who are fortunate enough to work with brethren who pay enough to maintain a high standard of living (one comparable to other brethren with good paying jobs). We are critical of those who obviously use preaching as a means of temporal gain.

The temptations mentioned before are real. It does not take a Solomon to see that some do yield to the desire to

be rich. "But you, O man of God, flee these things..."

Youthful Lusts

Timothy, a young man, was especially warned against youthful lust. Generally speaking, lust and desire translate from the same word in the New Testament. Lust is desire gone astray. Youth does not have a monopoly on lust, but some desires are stronger in youth than in later life. Lust is not limited to sexual lust. Paul says there are "many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition."

Sexual desire is stronger in youth than in later years. The young need to be especially careful not to allow it to become sinful (cf. Jas 2:14,15). Timothy, a young preacher, needed to especially be careful.

Perhaps Paul had other lusts in mind when he wrote, "Flee youthful lusts," 2 Tim 2:22. The warning comes as he condemns strife caused by foolish and ignorant disputes, 2 Tim 2:14ff. Could a youthful lust be an inordinate love of controversy? One cannot, nor should he try to, avoid all controversy. The gospel is controversial. It has always been. Read of the controversy it provoked in the book of Acts. One with no stomach for controversy does not need to preach. However, there is a difference in being set for the defense of the gospel and just being argumentative. "A servant of the Lord must not quarrel..." 2 Tim 2:23-26. Youth sometimes has an excessive love for argumentation—to make a sport and challenge out of winning an argument.

Young people often have a strong desire for the novel, innovative, and/or sensational. The inordinate desire for these can be a problem. They may desire change for its own sake. Some things may need changing. Some congregations need a good house cleaning with a fresh start that youth often likes to see. However, one must avoid clamoring for change for its own sake.

Young people have a strong desire to find their own places in the world. They want to be independent, standing on their own feet. This is not bad when kept under control and in perspective. Young preachers are no different. When this desire becomes an obsession or lust, a great deal of harm is done. They may belittle older and experienced men especially men of great influence. Rather than profiting from the teaching and experience of older brethren they scorn them. They want to show the world and the brotherhood, at all costs, that they are their own men—not riding on anyone's coat tails. With such an attitude there are bound to be conflicts between the young and their elders.

Young people have a strong desire for action. They like to see things get

done. Those of us who are older need to retain more of this desire in later life. This desire can become a lust and get out of hand. Young men sometimes grab the ball and run with it before the play is called. They want to get the church moving at their rate of speed so badly that they will assume leadership positions. They may not have had time to temper their zeal with the knowledge and/or experience needed to lead the church into action. Instead of working with older and experienced men, they may like Absalom of old set about to steal the hearts of the people, 2 Sam 15:6, away from them.

We need young people to spur us on with their idealism and enthusiasm. They may be able to rekindle in us some of the fire that we have allowed to burn low with age. Young people need to learn to keep a tight rein on these desires, so their energy can be channeled into useful rather than harmful avenues for themselves and the church.

These are some things that we just should not test our strength against. The only correct response is to flee, flee and flee. 

Remember in Prayer

Carolyn's brother David passed from this life midday yesterday. Please pray for her and her family; also **Hazel; Larry's mother, Polly; Dwight** and

Shirley; Cindy's parents and brother; Joshua V and his family; and **John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard.**