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

"Save yourselves from this crooked generation,"

—Acts 2:40b ESV



Servants during October/November:

Songleader: Larry (25), Stanley (11/1), Larry (8), Stanley (15), Larry (22), Stanley (29)
Reading: Mike; Larry (Nov)
Announcements: Stanley; Marty (Nov)
Table: Mike, Larry, Marty; Stanley, Marty, Mike (Nov)
Wednesday Lesson: Larry (28), Stanley (11/4), Kris (11), Larry (18), Stanley (25)
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

Volume 9 *October 25, 2026* *Number 14*

Save Yourself

By Jim Mickells

"And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation,'" Acts 2:40, ESV.

There are a good number of translations of the Bible which point out we are to "save ourselves" (KJV, ASV, RSV, NRSV, NCV, Mace NT, GW, ISV, TEV, Wesley NT, TLB, NAB, ETRV, Moffatt, Goodspeed, NIV, etc.). There are several lessons in this verse which are needful for us and the religious world as well. Let me suggest just a few.

Save: Man has something which needs saving. The word "save" is defined as, "Specifically of salvation from eternal death, sin, and the punishment and misery consequent to sin" (The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament). He has a soul in need of salvation, Mt 16:26, a soul marred by sin, Rom 3:10,23. Because of those sins, he has become separated from his Creator, Isa 59:1,2. Far too many are more concerned about satisfying the desire of the flesh, rather than following the Spirit which can lead to eternal life, Rom 8:12-14. Your soul is the most valuable thing you possess and is worth saving.

Yourself: This tells us that man has a responsibility in obtaining his salvation. If one is ever saved it will be by the grace and mercy of God, Eph 2:4,5. Yet access to His grace is through man's faith, Eph 2:8; Rom 5:1,2. I remember reading an article several years ago which stated, "there is nothing for you to do in obtaining salvation, Jesus did it all for you almost 2,000 years ago." This is one of Satan's most famous lies! Jesus did His part in dying on the cross and shedding His blood for the sins of the world, 1 Tim 2:6; 1 Jn 2:2. So did the Father in sending His Son to die so that all might live, Acts 2:23; 1 Jn 4:10. Likewise, the Spirit made it possible for all to know about this great sacrifice and the plan to redeem from sin, 1 Pet 1:10-12; 2 Pet 1:21. All are not going to be saved, Mt 7:13,14. Why?

Did God fail in some way? Was the blood of Christ insufficient? Did the Spirit not give us the proper instructions on how to be forgiven? You know the answer to these questions! Absolutely not! If one is not saved it is his own fault. He has failed to submit to God's plan of redemption.

Crooked Generation: When Luke records what the apostle Peter says by the inspiration of the Spirit on this occasion, there was a generation of people among whom these Jews dwelt, that were very wicked. Were they any different from the people whom the apostle said was a crooked generation? No! They were guilty of putting the Son of God to death, Acts 2:36. They needed forgiveness. If God was willing to forgive those who put His Son to death, will He not be willing to forgive any person of any sin if they will only turn and seek His forgiveness? Yes! We live in a very corrupt world as well. Yet we too can be forgiven and live as Christ instructs regardless of how others around us live. All can become God's elect, His chosen people, 1 Pet 1:1,2.

Words: Peter tells them words, when obeyed, they could be saved. His sermon was about Jesus Christ, Acts 2:22. He told them they had crucified Jesus, whom God made both Lord and Christ, Acts 2:36. They believed this and asked what they needed to do to be saved, Acts 2:37. The words spoken to them? "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins," Acts 2:38. Their response? "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them," Acts 2:41.

Let me exhort you if you have not been saved by the blood of Christ, "Save yourself from this crooked generation," Acts 2:40, ESV.

—via **Meditate on These Things**, Oct 2018 📖

"People of God"

By Robert F. Turner

There are two classes of people in the world: those acceptable to God, and those not acceptable. Peter says of the acceptable, "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people," (RV "a people for God's own possession,") 1 Pet 2:9. These "people of God" are those "called out of darkness into his marvelous light," v10.

The "call" is that of the gospel of Christ, 2 Thess 2:14, by which all people are taught, Jn 6:45. In one sense, this "call" is the dividing line between those acceptable to God and those not acceptable, in that those who believe and obey God's call are acceptable while all others are "in darkness" "without mercy"; note with care: Co1.1:12-14, Acts 26:16-18, 2:37-42.

In the first century these "called out" people—these "acceptable" with God—were called **the church**; i.e., the Greek word by which they were then designated, is now translated as "church." Note Acts 11:20-26: In Antioch those who heard the preaching of Christ and believed, turned to the Lord; these made up **the church**—c.f. Acts 20:28, Phil 1:1; 4:15. Thus, the N.T. teaches that **the church** (i.e., those who make up the church) are the people acceptable unto God; while all others (those outside the church) are not acceptable.

Yes, the church is important! Yes, church membership is essential! Those who are not a part of the Lord's church are not a part of the people or God! **These seemingly extreme statements are "radical" only to those who fail to grasp the significance of the scriptural definition of "church" or "people of God."**

I have not said you must "join my party" to be saved. I have not said that only members of a denomination called "Church of Christ" would be saved. But I must make it equally clear that no one is a member of the Lord's church—that will be saved—who has not "obeyed from the heart" the unadulterated call of the gospel. (Study Rom 6:16-18,3-7; Acts 2:37-47.)

Methodist sprinkling, Baptist voting, and "Church of Christ" communion are not gateways to heaven. We must learn to distinguish between being acceptable to a party of people, no matter what name they wear, and in being acceptable to God.

The "people of God" are likened unto a temple in which God dwells. The foundation is Jesus Christ, and the walls are of lively stones—faithful Christians, 1 Cor 3:11,16,17; 1 Pet 2:4-8. They are likened unto a kingdom of citizens, with Christ as King, Col 1:13; or a body of members, with Christ as Head, Eph 1:22,23; 1 Cor 12:12f. The church belongs to Christ and congregations of Christians are called "churches of Christ," Mt 16:18; Rom 16:16. God's people are even likened unto the bride of Christ, Eph 5:23f, so it is easy to see why these people should wear His name.

But the people of God wear the name of Christ **because they are His people**—they are not His people because they wear His name. (Maybe this should be re-read—slowly!)

—via **Plain Talk**, Dec 1964 📖

Remember: Daylight Saving Time ENDS NEXT SUNDAY!

Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for Stanley's cousin, **Leanne**—she will have further testing 11/11; also **Carolyn**; **Hazel**; **Larry's mother, Polly**; **Dwight** and **Shirley**; **Joshua V** and his family; and **John, Sylvia,** and **Paige Pollard**.