

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
*Speaker, Robert Emerson*  
 Study Sunday **Postponed**  
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Eve **Postponed**  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

*"Precious in the sight of the LORD  
 Is the death of His godly ones."  
 —Psalm 116:15*



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**Servants during May:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (3), Larry (10),  
 David (17), Peter (24), Chandler (31)

**Reading:** David

**Announcements:** Stanley

**Table:** Larry, Chandler, Mike, Marty

**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (6), Kris (13),  
 Larry (20), Stanley (27)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Kris

(3), Larry (10), Kris (17), Marty  
 (24), Stanley (31)

**Singing:** Perhaps 6/28?

**Area Meetings:** We will update as  
 we find out more information...

**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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## Good Education... Bad Preaching?

*By Robert F. Turner*

A friend of mine, discussing a sermon she had heard and enjoyed, said she was surprised that this particular preacher did so well, because "he had a good education."

That's no misprint. She was surprised that sermon of value could come from one highly educated. Nor is my friend a victim of ignorant superstition. She values secular education. But experience had taught her that "degrees" have a way of pushing into the foreground, so that sermons become pedantic and real spiritual concern for lost souls is overshadowed. Plain, old-fashioned Bible preaching is not good enough for Dr. Rev.; and what suits him doesn't stir the heart of the man who needs salvation.

Several years ago on a Sunday when a sore throat would not permit me to speak, two college boys were invited to "fill in." I heard both sermons,

and later the two boys came to my office and asked for my criticisms.

One boy (we'll call him Joe) had the makings of an after-dinner speaker. He had personality - plus, a few jokes, illustrations from current events and sports, and just enough emotional appeal to make his "talk" sound like preaching. I knew he had "gone over great" with the crowd.

The other (call him Dan) showed "stage fright" and spoke in a halting, half-stutter. But he had compiled a fine list of scriptures on his subject, and used his time reading and explaining them, and making direct application to the hearers.

I tried to make a fair and encouraging report to the boys; but told Joe that he was on the wrong track. I urged him to use his talents to present the Word, not himself; to warn people of their sin and damnation, and make

them know his concern. Joe thought this was “out of date.”

Both boys graduated from an outstanding “Christian” college, married, and chose secular jobs. But Joe has now joined a denomination, where fun, frolic, and “youth devotionals” are substituted for Christianity. Dan is teaching a Bible class

in a sound church, preaches as he has opportunity, and grows stronger day by day.

Fault of the college? Not per se. But one boy succumbed to the modern “social gospel” concept of Christianity, and one had faith in God’s word.

—via *Plain Talk*, April 1965 

# Long Live the Proof Text!

*By Brent Lewis*

It is obvious to all who are aware of the problems in the Lord’s church that a great deal of these problems have stemmed from the fact that a majority of preachers have changed their approach and method of preaching. Whereas preachers used to produce book, chapter, and verse for their teaching and practices, many now appeal to prose, poetry and opinion.

I think it worthy of note that in the book of Acts, which relates the accounts of the labors of some of the first gospel preachers in the church, that they gave a proof text for everything that they expected men and women to believe and accept. They were dealing many times with the Jews, who believed the Old Testament scriptures and, thus, they referred to these scriptures as proof to substantiate their preaching of the gospel of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

For generations the Jews had impatiently awaited the coming of the Messiah, and now the great day had arrived. Yet their hopes had not been realized, because the One Sent from God

was unfortunately not the one of their dreams. The manner of His coming was not as many had expected and, alas, multitudes of His own people derided Him, rejected Him, and finally even engineered His death. Confronted by the bold declaration of the apostles and others that “Jesus is the Messiah,” their natural reaction was, “Give us the proof!”

Their own preconceived ideas regarding the Messiah could not easily be placed aside as they listened to the fervent preaching of the early evangelists. How could the Old Testament teaching on the Christ—the Messiah—be reconciled with the life and works of the carpenter from Nazareth? That was a problem which the early preachers had to face. They were making great claims for Jesus, and there was only one way to substantiate them—by showing from passages and texts in the Old Testament that the very details of Jesus’ life had been foretold within its pages.

A simple glance at Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost will reveal how they met the challenge. Peter wishes to show

that Christ’s resurrection was in the divine plan of things. This he does by appealing to Psalm 16:10—“Because thou wilt not leave my soul unto Hades, neither wilt thou give thy Holy One to see corruption,” Acts 2:27. Also the exaltation of Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament, as is clear from Psalm 110:1—“The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies the footstool of thy feet.” This verse is quoted by Peter in Acts 11:34-35.

Thus, proof texts were used freely by preachers and writers. Some parts of the Old Testament were particularly valuable in substantiating truth. We find Paul addressing the Jews at Antioch, quoting Psalm 16:10 to substantiate the fact of the resurrection, Acts 13:35. Peter writing in 1 Peter 2:6 quotes Isaiah 28:16, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone,” to uphold the fact that Christ is the chief cornerstone of the church.

When the evangelists wrote their account of the gospel, proof texts were freely incorporated into the narrative of their works. Mark, for example, right at the beginning of his account of the gospel (Mk 1:2), quotes Malachi 3:1 to show how God had spoken beforehand of the

preparatory work of John the Baptist. Matthew in particular made great use of the Old Testament in penning his account, quoting from it some forty times. Many of these texts are mentioned by the evangelists to support the facts they give and to reveal the divine purpose behind Christ’s life. For example, the thirty pieces of silver are shown in Matthew 27:9 to have been foretold by Jeremiah. There can be no doubt at all that these proof texts carried a good deal of conviction to the Jewish readers.

Now, all of that has been said to say this. Early gospel preachers and writers appealed to scripture to support their claims. Those who profess to preach the gospel today would do well to imitate them in this regard. We cannot expect men and women in the world to believe what we teach religiously unless we offer book, chapter, and verse. Neither should those in the church who are satisfied to continue onward beyond the doctrine of Jesus Christ be at all surprised when there are those who demand, “Give us the proof!” to support their innovations, for “it hath been so from the beginning”—and rightly so.

—via *Searching the Scriptures*, May 1967 

## Remember in Prayer

**Cindy Vilander** is planning to have rotator cuff surgery this Friday (5/29), but **Oliver Newton** had his tonsils out last Friday (5/22)... **Robert** is almost feeling up to par, and, God willing, plans to preach on the radio again **beginning June 7<sup>th</sup>!** Kris’ close friend and fellow worker in the gospel, **Jimmy Gorley**, died Tuesday, 5/19.

Please continue to pray for **Lois Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Polly McNatt...** 

*Please continue to pray for those that have been affected by the pandemic in other areas of the country and world; particularly brethren in Christ...*