

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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“...for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch,”

—Acts 11:26

**Servants during February:**

Songleader: Dwight (2), Stanley (9), Larry (16), Dwight (23)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Stanley, Marty, Larry

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (5), Stanley (12), Kris (19), Larry (26)

Area Meetings:

Fourth Street (Cullman), 7-9, Colby Junkin; **Eastside (Athens),** 21-23, Gary Fisher; **Pepper Road,** 22-26, Larson Plyler

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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Christians With No Denominational Ties

By Bill Hall

God places great emphasis on names. He changed Abram’s name to Abraham, Gen 17:5, Sarai’s name to Sarah, Gen 17:15, and Jacob’s name to Israel, Gen 32:38. He gave to John and Jesus their names before they were born, Lk 1:13,31. He has given to His people of this age the name “Christian,” Acts 11:26; 1 Pet 4:16. He has given no sectarian or denominational names, but rather condemns them, 1 Cor 1:10-13. The great need of our day is for men and women to forsake their denominational ties, be nothing but Christians, and call themselves “Christians,” with no other religious names.

It is of interest to note that leaders in the prominent

denominations, including some of their founders, recognized and preached this truth. N. B. Hardeman, in his *Tabernacle Sermons* (Volume IV, pp 216,217), gives quotes from Charles Spurgeon, Martin Luther, and John Wesley in which they plead for unity.

Charles Spurgeon, a prominent Baptist preacher, is quoted as saying: “I look forward, with pleasure, to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ’s name endure forever,” Spurgeon’s Memorial Library, Vol I, p168.


The quote from Martin Luther: “I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but

Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for anyone. St. Paul would not let any call themselves after Paul, nor of Peter, but of Christ. How then, does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of God? Cease, my dear friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions: away with them all; and let us call ourselves only Christians after Him from whom our doctrine comes," Stork, The Life of Luther, p289.

Brother Hardeman's quote from John Wesley, founder of the Methodist church: "Would to God that all party names and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian world were forgot; that we might all agree to sit down together as humble, loving disciples at the feet of a common

Master, to hear His words, to imbibe His spirit, and to transcribe His life into ours."

We cannot help but wonder what changes would have taken place in religious history had the followers of these men heeded their pleas. The pleas, however, went unheeded.

Denominationalism with its religious division exists and will continue to exist until our Lord comes to "root it up," Mt 15:13. But meanwhile, no one has to be a part of the denominational system; no one should be a part of it. Today, one can be just a Christian—as was Paul, or Peter, or James, or John with membership in nothing but a local church made up of other Christians. Faithful churches of Christ, with no denominational affiliations, meet throughout the world. 

Two Men Disagree with the Preacher

By Bill Hall

Two men disagree with the preacher. They have both been taught that they are not just to "swallow" everything the preacher says, that they are to think for themselves. They are to be commended, therefore, for their careful evaluation of what is taught.

The key words with the first man, however, are, "It seems to me." All teaching is judged according to his own thinking, as to whether it makes sense to him.

The key words with the second man are, "What does God say about it?" He desires truth and knows that truth can only be found in God's word, Jn 17:17. If he disagrees with the preacher, he does so because he is convinced the preacher has misused a passage of scripture or has failed to consider a scripture that might affect his conclusion. He comes with an open Bible and an open mind, prepared to defend his position or to yield if he sees that it is indefensible.


The first man exalts self. He places too much confidence in his own thinking. He may do so unconsciously, but in reality, he makes his own intellect and experience his god. His thinking is reflected in the words of Naaman, "Behold, I thought," words that would have taken Naaman to a leper's grave had it not been for the admonition of his servants, 2 Kings 5:1-14.

The second man exalts God. His confidence is in what God says in the scriptures. He recognizes that his own intellect and experience fade into nothingness when placed in the brightness of the light of truth. A "thus saith the Lord" ends all controversy with him. His thinking is reflected in that of the Bereans who "were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they... searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so," Acts 17:11.

Unless the first man changes his attitude, he is hopeless.

He is susceptible to all manner of

false ideas. He cannot come to know God and His truth through his own wisdom, 1 Cor 1:21. He must throw his own wisdom, intellect, and experience aside; he must become poor in spirit, meek before God, mourning, hungering and thirsting for righteousness; he must bow in submission to the Lord and to His word. He must say with Paul, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" Romans 11:33,34.

The second man is a blessed and fortunate man indeed, for he will learn the truth that will make him free, Jn 8:32. Unfortunately, he is a rare man in the twentieth century. But he does exist—and he can exist even in the man who is presently reading this article. What a challenge to each of us! After all, it is one thing to disagree with a preacher, but quite another thing to disagree with Almighty God! 

Remember in Prayer

Mark Horton has begun his radiation treatments for prostate and bone cancers. **Mike B** is still experiencing difficulty breathing. **Paige Pollard** has been released from the ICU after being admitted for pneumonia and RSV; but she is still quite ill. **Alice** had cataract surgery

Tuesday, and is scheduled for the second eye 2/11.

Pray also for **Barbara; Betty; Carolyn; Faye; Hazel; Joshua V; Kathy M; Kaylee; Mark Horton; Mike B and his family; Pam; and the Pollard Family.** 