

SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday morning worship (Bible study)	9:30 AM
Sunday morning worship (Preaching)	10:30 AM
Sunday afternoon worship (Preaching).....	4:00 PM
Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study).....	7:00 PM

NEWS AND NOTES

SCHEDULE: The schedule for April is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for the month.

SERVICE TIMES: We are meeting at our normal schedule of assemblies.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Donna Criswell is caring for her aunt, Nell Barrett, whose condition prevents Donna from being at some services. Donna is also helping care for her brother. Telford Hamm's brother, Lee, is now living with Joe Hamm and his family. Also, remember Telford's brother-in-law. Nancy Summerford and her husband have both had covid and Nancy helps care for her mother who has Alzheimer's. She is hoping to be able to be back at services soon. Virgie Waddle has been moved to the nursing home in Golden room 2, her sister-in-law, Jean Malone, is there also. Regina Hamm's mother received a treatment for her heart and is feeling better but still has a problem with fluid retention. George Hutto will be having surgery April 14th for the spot on his liver then about another six weeks of chemo. Kevin Poston's brain tumor is stage four cancer. He has been given a break from the chemo and radiation he has been receiving to try to slow the growth of the cancer. Raymond requested we pray for Kevin. Gerald Ricketts' wife, Michele, continues gradual improvement recovering from her heart attack.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING: This week's reading is **2Cor 6-10**.

TEACHING EFFORTS: A new issue of the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, will be inserted in the **Red Bay News** in April. Copies of the new issue are on the table in the foyer for those who do not receive a paper. These may also be used to give to a friend or neighbor. When depleted, more can be printed. There is an ad in the paper once a month offering a free Bible correspondence course. DVD copies of past TV programs are available. The radio program continues on 95.5 FM at 10 AM each Sunday. Please pray that these efforts will reach people interested in studying God's word.

GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS: Due to Covid-19 our April meeting was canceled. There is a meeting in Belgreen this week Sunday through Wednesday with Berry Kercheville. 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday – Wednesday. If you know of meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Proper use of today is the best preparation for tomorrow.
- Work will win when wishing won't.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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MAKING TIME

By Greg Gwin

If my car is broken down, I must find time to fix it. If the house needs painting, necessity demands that time be found to do it. If the weather and all other conditions are favorable, I will find time to go fishing.

All of this simply illustrates what has been said many times before - we find time, make time, arrange our schedules, and do what's necessary so that we can accomplish certain things. We will find a way to do the things that must be done, things that need to be done, and especially things that we want to do.

Think of the implications of this concerning our spiritual service to God. Faithful attendance is a must (Hebrews 10:25); regular Bible study is a need (2Timothy 2:15); teaching others is an absolute essential (Matthew 25:19, 20). Other acts of service could be added to this list, but our point is established.

Now, if we don't do these things, what is the problem? Could it be that we don't understand the commands that God has given? No. Do we fail to see the need for learning more about Him and serving Him faithfully? No. Have we failed to observe the things that are spiritually essential? Probably not.

The answer lies in what we want to do. Sir John Lubbock, English statesman of the last century said: "In truth, people

can generally make time for what they choose to do; it is not really the time but the will that is lacking.”

Jesus put it this way: “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me (Matthew 15:8)

Are you putting the Lord first? Are you making time for the things that must be done and for the things that need to be done? Do you really want to do the Lords will in all things? Think!

PEER PRESSURE

By Bob Waldron

Much of God’s covenant with Israel dealt with human relations. Many laws pointed out how the Jew was to conduct himself among his peers. One of these admonitions was, “*Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil*” (Exodus 23:2). This was a very important decree; it showed the danger of peer pressure and pointed out explicitly the dangers of being led astray by evil men. Peer pressure was an important factor in their lives; it has been from that time to the present. And perhaps as never before, peer pressure is an issue we have to wrestle with.

A leading educator noted that peer pressure is the strongest influence exerted on young people today. He stated that in most cases it is twice as strong as the influence of home and family, and yields a far greater influence than religion. All young people want to be accepted by their peers. And if to do so means disobeying parents and selling out personal convictions, some are willing to do so just to be a part of the bunch. In dealing with young folks and their problem of peer pressure, we often quote 1Corinthians 15:33: “*Evil companionships corrupt good morals.*” I contend this is an important verse dealing with this subject. This admonition does caution against the dangers of peer pressure being exerted by those who are void of spiritual convictions and virtues. Let us continue to warn our young people of the dangers of their associates that rob them of their virtues.

But is all peer pressure centered in the young? Does this pressure cease when we become adults? At all stages of life there are peer pressures put on us by those with whom we mix and mingle. Christians have always faced pressures in dealing with their peers. And when God has spoken, He has always done so with a stern warning against letting our associates rob us of our moral integrity.

One of the most striking examples of this occurred in the life of Peter. Peter was one of Christ’s most ardent followers. He said, “*Even if I must die with thee, yet I will not deny thee*” (Matthew 26:25). He declared, “*Lord, with thee I am ready to go both to prison and death*” (Luke 22:33). But on that fateful night of the arrest and trial of the Lord, Peter “*followed afar off*” (Matthew 26:53). He stood with the enemies of the Lord (Matthew 26:69). And when asked about his allegiance to Christ, he denied that he even knew Him (Matthew 26:69-74). Peter, when alone with the enemies of Christ, relented to peer pressure. What a lesson for the Christian today. When we are alone with those who have no regard for the Lord or spiritual values, we are at the most vulnerable moment of our spiritual life. And so often, the pressures from our peers lead to our downfall.

There are other examples in the New Testament on this subject. Peer pressure played a leading role in the rejection of Christ by the rulers of the synagogue (John 12:42-43). Likewise, peer pressure was the deciding factor in the heinous crime of Herod (Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:23). Herod feared and respected John, but his oath, along with his peers prevented him from backing down on his promise, and resulted in having John the Baptist put to death. In this we see the influence and power of wicked men and the insidiousness of peer pressure.

But there is another side of the coin of peer pressure. Not all the characters of the Bible collapsed under the pressure of their associates. Many stood, often alone, in the face of severe pressures put on them by others. Be aware of the immense pressures put on you by your peers, especially those with no regard for God and spiritual values. Profit from the mistakes others made and redouble your efforts not to yield to these peer pressures as they did.