



P A T H S

The Ministry of Evangelist Tom Hayes
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Praise the Lord for His many blessings experienced over the last few months. For every opportunity of ministry, for every special service, for every token of grace, for every manifestation of God's presence, I join the Psalmist in saying, "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever." (Psa.106:1).

Because of Jesus and His wonderful love, His people are a loving people. With that in mind, thank you for your devoted love, fervent prayers, helpful gifts, and continued interest in this ministry. Also, my mother, my sisters, my brother and I want to express our heartfelt appreciation for all the love shown toward us during my dad's death. Such an outpouring of love could only originate with the Lord Jesus.



O.T. & Ruby Hayes

Date	Church	Location	Pastor
Aug. 17-18	First Baptist Church	Mountain City, TN	Rev. Ricky Campbell
Aug. 20-24 AM	Welcome Home Baptist Church	Mt. Airy, GA	Rev. Larry Ryals
Aug. 24 PM-27	Swannanoa Hgts. Baptist Church	Swannanoa, NC	Rev. Bruce Robinson
Aug. 31 AM	Bethel Baptist Church	Waynesville, NC	Dr. Roy Kilby
Aug. 31 PM-Sept. 3	Mountain View Baptist Church	Hendersonville, NC	Rev. Mike McMillion
Sept. 4-6	Freedom Baptist Church	Forest City, NC	Rev. Roy Glaspy
Sept. 7 AM	Calvary Fellowship	Arden, NC	Rev. Noel Hendrix
Sept. 7 PM-10	Smarts Grove Baptist Church	Connelly Sprgs., NC	Rev. Charles Lewis
Sept. 12-14	Riverside Baptist Church	Tallapoosa, GA	Rev. Steve Galloway
Sept. 15-19	Cleveland County Campmeeting	Shelby, NC	Rev. Terrill Crump
Sept. 21-22	Southside Baptist Church	Wadesboro, NC	Rev. Lou Shepherd
Sept. 26-28 AM	Victory Baptist Church	Greensboro, NC	Rev. Paul Doby
Sept. 28 PM-Oct. 1	Balsam Baptist Church	Balsam, NC	Rev. Johnny Swanger
Oct. 5-8	Homeland Baptist Church	Kingsport, TN	Rev. J. W. Depew
Oct. 12-15	Calvary Baptist Church	Hickory, NC	Rev. Bert Dixon
Oct. 19-21	Good News Baptist Church	Candler, NC	Rev. Steve Smith
Oct. 22	Race Path Baptist Church	Ellenboro, NC	Rev. Lance Scarlet
Oct. 26-28	Central Baptist Church	Carrolton, GA	Dr. Doug Bearden

***“And now, I pray you, beseech God
that He will be gracious unto us” (Mal. 1:9).***

A Portrait Of God As A Potter

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).

The little sign on the side of the road, “The Potter’s Wheel,” reeled me in. I had been meditating on Jeremiah 18:6 where the Lord said, “Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in Mine hand.” I just couldn’t pass on by; I had to pursue this matter a little more. I drove up the little driveway to the place.

After meeting the potter, he consented to make me a vessel for a small charge. As he worked with the clay, and formed a beautiful vessel, it became clear why the Lord likened Himself to a potter. As the master Craftsman, He takes the raw material of our lives, graciously works on us and fashions us into vessels for His glory.

The second group of words in our text points to this fashioning work of God in our lives. Notice, first:

1. The Presupposition That Is Understood

Since there is a creation, which is indicated by the words, “created in Christ Jesus,” we must assume that the potter had already found the clay, brought it into the potter’s house, and begun working on it. From this we conclude that *clay was desired*. A potter goes to great lengths to find clay; in this we realize the unfathomable love of God in Christ for poor sinners. Furthermore, we realize that *clay was discovered*. The potter goes to where the clay is and removes the leaves and debris. Similarly, by His Spirit, the Lord Jesus comes where we are and begins to deal with us. Eventually, *clay was dug*, set free from its old environment. Although a potter can order his clay online today, in Bible times, he would dig out his own clay. The Lord, our Potter, is the only One Who can dig us out of the muck and mire of sin (see Psa. 40:2).

Along with the presupposition that is understood, we notice:

2. The Process That Is Undeniable

Like everything else that God does for His people, this spiritual process is “in Christ Jesus.” There is a *creating process* in Christ. As a potter takes crude, unlovely clay and makes it what he wants it to be, so our God takes sinners who are not acceptable and makes them His possession. There is also a *changing process* in Christ. In Jesus, sinners are gloriously transformed! While the potter may change a lump of clay into a beautiful vessel, the Lord takes a poor helpless sinner and produces a new creation. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” (2 Cor. 5:17). Furthermore, there is a *conforming process* in Christ. The potter eventually conforms the lump of clay to the special image he has in his mind. Paul tells us that we are being “conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom. 8:29). God is molding us into Christ’s likeness.

The words “unto good works” speak of:

3. The Purpose That Is Unveiled

The potter never just plays with the clay. He has an objective, an aim, a goal. Neither does the great Potter just toy with the souls of men. He has something in mind; He has a great purpose. His chief intention is to bring us “unto good works.” *The works of God are beautiful!* The works He is associated with are not repulsive; they are attractive. They are not fleshly works; they are spiritual. They are not corrupt works; they are “good” works. *The works of God are beneficial!* His works are not detrimental; they are useful. They are not self-oriented; they are helpful in the lives of others. *The works of God are believable!* A famous potter is known by his product. So, our Potter is known by His perfections manifested in our lives. “He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6).

With the songwriter, may our hearts sing:

“Have thine own way Lord! Have thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

- Adelaide A. Pollard



Dad working with Jeff



Dad in church with Tom

Prayer Requests

Personal

- Spiritual sensitivity
- Physical strength
- True servanthood
- Christ-like spirit

Family

- Cindy’s parents
- Tom’s mother
- Our daughters
- Our grandsons

Ministry

- Safety in travel
- Spirit of revival
- Seeking hearts
- Salvation of souls

“... as
He was
praying
in a
certain
place...”
(Luke 11:1).