

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

*Speaker, Robert Emerson*

Study Sunday 10:00 AM

Worship Sunday 11:00 AM

Worship Sunday 5:00 PM

*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*

Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Preacher / bulletin editor:** Kris Vilander**Phone:** (256) 472-1065**E-mail:** kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org**Website:** www.haysmillchurchofchrist.orgCome study  
with us!**Servants during April:****Songleader:** Larry (1), David (8), Chandler (15), Dwight (22), Stanley (29) **Lawn Mowing (week beginning):** Kris (8), Billy (15), Marty (25), Stanley (29), Robert (6)**Reading:** Stanley**Announcements:** Marty**Communion:** Stanley, Marty, David, Lakin **Singing:** TBD (22)**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (4), Kris (11), Mike (18), Larry (25) **Area Meetings:** Jones Road**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

**The Bible .  
Examiner***"Examine everything carefully..." – 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB*

Volume 1

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Number 4

**Guard Your Heart***By Patrick Gaughan*

I recently read a book by Malcolm Gladwell. Gladwell loves exploring unexpected aspects of human nature and human behavior. In this particular book, he describes an interesting psychological experiment that caught my attention.

In the experiment students were given a list of little word puzzles. For example, they were asked to find the word that does not fit in this jumbled up sentence: water politely am asked Mary for.

Looking at the sentence, the word am seems to be the one that does not fit. Each student was given a sheet of a few dozen such puzzles. The student (the subject) was instructed to work the puzzles on the sheet, then go to the graduate student sitting at a desk at the end of the hall to get the next assignment.

The twist, as all good psychology experiments must have, was that invariably when the subject went to get the next assignment, the graduate student was already engrossed in conversation with another student. The real experiment was this: How long would the

subject wait before interrupting this conversation to get the next assignment?

Surprisingly, the answer to that question depended heavily on what words were on the sheet the student had just completed! On some sheets, the word puzzles were sprinkled with words like "aggressively," "rude," "bold," "infringe," "intrude," and "bother." Students who worked these sheets interrupted the conversation after just a few minutes. Other sheets contained words like "respect," "considerate," "appreciate," "patiently," "yield," "polite," and "courteous." The vast majority (82%) of students who worked the second test did not interrupt at all (there was a ten minute time-limit imposed on the experiment).

What is the point? The results of this experiment tell us that what you see on a sheet of paper -- the words you read in passing, can affect your attitude and behavior. The word puzzles were written so that it was not obvious what was going on. Many of the puzzles on the page did not have any of the key words in them. The students had no

idea they were being “primed” to be rude or polite. Yet, their subsequent behavior shows that the subtle message of those words had an impact.

I am not a huge fan of psychological experiments, but the important point is that the results of this experiment agree with scripture. We are warned to be diligent guardians of our hearts.

“Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the issues of life,” Prov 4:23.

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word,” Psa 119:9.

“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you,” Psa 119:11.


“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things,” Phil 4:8.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may

prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God,” Rom 12:2.

There is an ongoing battle over the hearts of men. We need to be very aware of the influences surrounding us, both overt and subtle. When challenged about the choice to watch a violent or R-rated movie, I have heard Christians reply, “It’s ok. It doesn’t bother me.” When asked about their worldly choices in music, I have heard Christians reply, “I can handle it.” When asked about spending so much time with their worldly friends, I have heard the reply, “I’ll influence them, not vice versa.” Can we be so sure?

When a dozen well-chosen words on a page, quickly read, can make the difference between politeness and rudeness, what will filling our ears, eyes, and thoughts with worldly words, images, and opinions do? What will filling our hearts and minds with what is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and virtuous do?

Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it flow the issues of life. 

or nothing. I try to tell him the Bible says nothing about a saddle, but he replies, “Any fool knows he’d have a saddle on his horse.” I surely hate to admit that this fool can’t even find the horse.

The text is in triplicate: Acts 9:1-18; 22:1-16; 26:12-20, and one must assemble the facts from each account to

get the full story.

It pleased God to make Paul an Apostle (Gal 2:15) and this required witnessing the resurrected Lord. Paul did not see Him at the “due” time, i.e., before the ascension (1 Cor 15:4-10); but the Lord appeared unto him to make him “a minister and a witness,” not to save him, (26:16).

The Lord spoke to Paul, not to assure him of salvation, but to send him to one who would tell him what to do (9:6; 22:10). This does not refer to his preaching mission, for Jesus had already told him of this (26:17 ff).

Some say the light, the appearance of the Lord, the voice, etc., all are assurances that Saul’s (Paul’s) sins were forgiven. If so, he is the most dejected and sorrowing “saved” man of history. “He was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink” (9:9). During this time he was praying (9:11).


And Ananias said, “Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” Even the old-timer should admit this is hardly the thing to say to one who is saved—with sins forgiven. (The old-timer is quiet at this point.)

Saul’s conversion, like others in the early days of the church, was surrounded by circumstances related to the times. Because of his appointment as an Apostle, there are elements in the account not directly a part of the conversion itself. Remove these, and his conversion was not unlike any other “turning to the Lord” recorded in New Testament history. He had to learn of the Lord, (note Acts 7:58); believe in Him, repent of past sins, and obey Him in baptism. He placed his trust in Christ and the salvation made possible by His

death; and this faith was such as to lead him to “obey from the heart that form of doctrine” (the death, burial, and resurrection) “being then made free from sins” (Rom 6:16-18, 3-5).

Remember, it was this same Paul who wrote Rom 6:3 ff (NASB), “all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death.”

But my friend, the old-timer, is not yet convinced. “Don’t talk to me about baptism,” he shouts. “How in this wide world are you going to baptize a horse??”

Hmm! I’m going to study on that.  
—Via “Plain Talk,” May 1964, v1n5 

**Hear the  
gospel of Christ!  
Invite your friends and  
neighbors to  
our meeting  
May 13-16  
with Kasey Harbin**

**Remember in Prayer**

Cindy Pressnell’s husband Dwight has had some tests done, and is awaiting results...

Please pray for those who are unable to meet with us, including: Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Dennis, Dot and Tim Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.

Please also let Kris know during the week if there is someone you would like to be mentioned in this column that we can pray for!

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## *“B’twixt Saddle and Ground”*

*By Robert F. Turner*

“Yep,” an old-timer tells me; “the light hit him, and he was converted b’twixt the saddle and the ground.”

Believe it or not, we are talking about the conversion of Saul (later the Apostle Paul) not a western movie. No amount of Bible reading can change my friend’s conception either. With him it is “b’twixt saddle and ground”