

**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; (256) 472-1042**E-mail:** kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org**Website:** www.haysmillchurchofchrist.orgCome study  
with us!**Servants during September:****Songleader:** Chandler (7), Dwight (14), Stanley (21), Larry (28)**Reading:** Robert**Announcements:** Stanley**Communion:** Mike, Lakin, Larry, Chandler**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (3), Mike (10), Larry (17), Stanley (24), Kris (31)**Lawn Mowing (week beginning):**

Marty (7), Stanley (14), Robert (21), Larry (28), Kris (11/4)

**Singing:** TBA**Area Meetings:** Capshaw (7-10)**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

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**The Bible .  
Examiner***"Examine everything carefully..." - 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB**Volume 1**October 7, 2018**Number 28***Learning the Truth***By Steve Klein*

I have had the opportunity on several occasions to attend or read religious debates. In every such debate, at least one of the disputants has been in error. Sometimes, they both have been. Yet, I know for a fact that the debaters often spend hundreds of hours studying what the Bible has to say concerning the subject at hand. Whether the topic was instrumental music in worship, the necessity of baptism, the mode of baptism, church support of institutions, miraculous spiritual gifts or Christians taking oaths, I have always been impressed with the tremendous amount of Bible study, thought and preparation done by each participant. Their laborious effort shows. Personally, I have never heard a debate in which I didn't learn many new facts, some of them from the person who was defending error. One can have a lot of facts and still not have the truth!

The same holds true for preachers and Bible class teachers. Many spend

a great deal of time studying and preparing, and are capable of presenting a lot of true and valuable information. Yet, many are in error on certain points. Is it because they don't study enough? Maybe, in some cases. But maybe there is more to understanding God's truth than just studying. Maybe there is more to learning the truth than just learning the facts.

How do we come to know the truth of God's word? Is it through study? Yes. But something more than study is necessary.


1) Study must be coupled with the will to know the truth, and not with a desire to reinforce our opinions or defend our positions. In John 5:39,40, Jesus told the Jews, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life." The Jews did not discover the truth about the Christ in the Old

Testament Scriptures because they were “not willing.” Even though they searched the Scriptures, they remained in error because they didn’t want the truth more than they wanted their own opinions and traditions. We will do no better than they as long as we cherish anything more than the truth. Proverbs 23:23 commands us to “Buy the truth, and do not sell it.”

2) Study must be thorough, and truly include all of the related information in the Bible on a given subject. Psalm 119:160 states that “The entirety of Your word is truth.” If I want to know the truth, I must take “the entirety” of God’s word. If I dismiss or ignore certain passages of Scripture because they don’t fit with my view of truth, I will not learn the truth.

3) Study must be done with the humility of one who is ignorant, not with the pride of one who already knows. In 1 Corinthians 8:1,2, the apostle Paul writes, “Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that

we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.” The person who doesn’t know, but doesn’t know that he doesn’t know, has a lot to learn, but he is not likely to learn it. One who is proud in his knowledge does not receive instruction and correction; so, he remains in error. “He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray,” Prov 10:17.

I am troubled that there are well-studied brethren who are wrong. Aren’t you? I am keenly aware that I might be in the same shape myself, and just as blissfully ignorant of it as many others seem to be. I must study. I must study more earnestly, more honestly, more thoroughly, and more humbly. “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” 2 Tim 2:15. 

helps in balance. The claws of the cheetah, especially when worn down some, act as cleats which give the animal better traction.

Although the cheetah has “speed to burn,” it has one big problem. It can only maintain this velocity for a short time. If it cannot catch its prey in a few seconds, it has to give up. Even when


the animal catches its prey, it has to rest for around thirty minutes before it can start to eat. Thus, the cheetah, as fast as it is for a short time, does not have endurance.

Many who become Christians are like the cheetah. They start very fast with a great deal of enthusiasm. They do not, however, have “staying” power. They only last for a short time and then fall away.

The stony soil, in the Parable of the Sower, would represent such a person. Of the four soils in the parable, one was stony. The seed which fell on this soil immediately sprang up, Mt 13:5. Later, Jesus explained the parable and pointed out specifically that the seed which fell on the stony place represents one who hears the Word and receives it immediately with joy. He also said, “yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while,” v21. This person started well, but due to difficulties, he fell away.

In the book of Galatians, Paul addressed the churches of Galatia. Many there had erred in their teaching. They were trying to bring the Jewish ordinance of circumcision into the law of Christ. Paul told them that he marveled that they were “turning

away so soon from Him who called you to the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,” Gal 1:6. Later he told them, “You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth,” Gal 5:7. Various passages are found in the letters to the seven churches of Asia which encourage endurance. The Lord told the church at Smyrna to, “...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life,” Rev 2:10. Christians are to be faithful as long as they live, and they are to endure even to the point of being put to death. He also told others in these letters, to hold fast (Note also Rev 2:13; 3:3,11).

Michael Johnson, the Olympian, would have real problems trying to keep up with a cheetah. Michael Johnson, the preacher, would have even more problems. With all of its speed, however, the cheetah just cannot run fast for very long. Sadly, in a similar way, many have no endurance in their service to God today. They start with the speed of a cheetah but they don’t last. We must have perseverance in serving God. Hebrews 10:23 says, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” 

# ***Cheetahs and Christians***

*By Mike Johnson*

## *Remember in Prayer*

David Harwell is preparing for heart surgery; Betty is having some trouble with her blood sugar; and while we are grateful that Carolyn’s pain has been greatly reduced, some of her medication has stopped working, so a substitute is having to be infused.

Please continue to remember Lois Adams and her brother, Ted; Ruth Black, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeple; as well as Billy and Marie’s grandson, Austin, and Buddy’s friend, Herbert Sides.