

**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

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We would love to  
 study God's word  
 with you!

**Servants during March:**

**Songleader:** Dwight (3), Stanley (10),  
 Larry (17), David (24), Chandler (31)

**Reading:** Mike**Announcements:** Stanley**Communion:** Buddy, David, Marty, Larry**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (6), Stanley (13),  
 Kris (20), Mike (27)**Lawn Mowing (week starting):**

On winter vacation...

**Singing:** TBD (24)**Area Meetings:** West Madison St,  
 Pulaski, TN (17-20); Posey, (24-  
 27); South Cullman (3/31-4/3);  
 Jackson Drive (Mondays 3/11-  
 5/13)**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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## "The Stranger"

By Keith Currie

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer, and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind each member had a special niche. My brother, Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play "big brother" and to develop the art of teasing. My parents were complementary instructors—Mom taught me to love the word of God and Dad taught me to obey it.

But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries, and comedies were daily

conversations. He would hold our whole family spell-bound for hours each evening.

If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so lifelike that I would often laugh or cry as I watched.

He was like a friend to the whole family. He took Dad, Bill, and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies and he even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular.

The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind, but sometimes Mom would quietly get up—while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places—and go to her room,

read her Bible and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions. But this stranger never felt any obligation to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house—not from us, from our friends, or from adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occasional four-letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge, the stranger was never confronted. My Dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in his home—not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often. He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (probably much too freely) about sex. His comments were blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationships were influenced by the stranger.

As I look back, I believe it was the grace of God that the stranger did not

influence us more. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

More than thirty years have passed since the stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive. He is not nearly so intriguing to my Dad as he was in those early years. But if I were to walk into my parents den today, you would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We always just called him TV.


*As you are probably aware, this article is rather old; I found it in some files of mine from more than 20 years ago. Now, the Stranger's even more perverse friend, "Internet," has introduced us and our children to more and deeper evil; and influenced our family and society in ways TV only dreamed of. And we still invite them in—sometimes with ground rules, but never really able to keep their moral influence, particularly with regard to sex and violence, under control. Is God pleased?*

Via [The Way of Life](#) 

## Remember in Prayer

**Dwight** is doing better following a bout with bronchitis; but **Pam** still suffers from her sinus infection. **Shane's father** is experiencing some benefits from dialysis at home, but is currently not a candidate for a

heart/kidney transplant.

Please always pray for those that would like to but cannot meet with us, including **Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.** 

# God Knows, Not I

By Robert F. Turner

*God knows, not I, the devious ways wherein my faltering feet may tread; Before, into the light of day, my steps from out this gloom are led. But since my Lord the path doth see, What matter if 'tis hid from me?*

*God knows, not I, how sweet accord shall grow at length from out this clash of earthly discord, that jar on soul and sense. I hear the crash, But feel I know that on His ear fall harmony, full, deep, and clear.*

*His perfect plan I may not grasp, but I can trust love infinite, and with my feeble fingers clasp the hand that leads me into light. My soul upon His errand goes—the end I know not, But God knows.*

The above, author unknown, was sent to me as part of a wonderful letter of encouragement, and expression of faith in God's eternal purposes.

We do not hold to a fatalistic concept of destiny; and certainly not to individual predestination, that would deny and destroy free will and initiative. But we believe our Creator had ultimate ends in mind when He brought us into existence; and the eternal purposes of God, revealed in

His Son, and the Word of His power, are given us as guide lines and "light to our path."

For a happy and useful life here, and to be partakers in the glory that shall be; we must recognize our dependence upon God, and seek to live in keeping with His instructions. He alone sees the end of what often seems purposeless to us. "We walk by faith, not by sight," 2 Cor 5:7.

How essential then that we learn God's will; that we prayerfully study His word, and obey His commandments. And when we have done this, and continue to do this, should we not walk with confidence?

If we are sincerely striving to know God's way, and follow it, to question or doubt the outcome is to show a lack of faith in our Guide. We must "be not anxious" for the morrow, Mt 6:24-34. Oh, ye of little faith!

God rules in the affairs of men; God knows our needs; God cares; God gives, Mt 7:7ff. So live that when thy summons comes—you may quit the walks of men with a genuine and well-founded hope for heaven.

Via [Plain Talk](#), v5n3, May 1968 

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Don't forget our meeting **April 21-26** with Glenn Hamilton

**Messages for the NT Church from the OT Prophets:**

*Prophetic views of the church, Christ, and Christians*

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