

**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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Won't you come  
 study the word of  
 God with us?

**Servants during July:**

**Songleader:** David (7), Chandler (14),  
 Dwight (21), Stanley (28)

**Reading:** Chandler**Announcements:** Larry**Communion:** Lakin, David, Peter,  
 Stanley**Wednesday Lesson:** Stanley (3), Kris (10),  
 Mike (17), Larry (24), Stanley (31)**Lawn Mowing (week starting):**

Stanley (7), Robert (14), Larry  
 (21), Kris (28)

**Singing:** TBD (7/28)

**Area Meetings:** Eastside (Redbay,  
 7/7-12); Northside (Lexington,  
 7/7-12); Parkway (7/14-19);  
 Russellville (7/14-19);  
 Centerview (7/21-24); Belgreen  
 (7/21-26); Piney Grove (7/28-31)

**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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## Investigate the What?

*By David Smitherman*

It's not at all uncommon to find websites belonging to various local churches of Christ with a link to an article entitled, "Investigate the church of Christ". And many tracts have been written and are in use under that same heading. I'm sure also that not just a few sermons have had that same title. I respectively raise the question, "just what is it that you are urging people to investigate?" That might be a legitimate request to make if you are talking about some particular local congregation: "Come and visit with us and investigate what we do in our assemblies and what is taught in our Bible classes and sermons. Compare the things you see and hear with what the New Testament teaches." That is certainly a valid appeal to make. But I'm not sure that is always what is meant.

I fear that there is some thinking among many in churches of Christ

that "the church of Christ" is a religious system/organization that needs to be investigated. Much like one would investigate the Rotary Club or Kiwanis Club, civic organizations through which one might fulfill community responsibilities, I'm afraid "the church of Christ" has become that in a spiritual sense. Just as "the Kiwanis Club" is made up of local Kiwanis clubs around the world, in the same manner some evidently think that "the church of Christ" is made up of local churches of Christ around the world (hence the phrase "the congregations of the church of Christ").

The church that Jesus said He would build (Mt 16:18) has no unique name, has no organizational structure, isn't given any collective work to do, cannot be physically assembled, does not have a doctrine or teaching on any subject,

and does not collectively worship. There are no such things (scripturally) as “church of Christ preachers,” “church of Christ sermons,” “church of Christ hymns”, etc. In short, there is nothing organizationally to “investigate.”

The church that Jesus built is a brotherhood: “Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, and honor the king,” 1 Pet 2:17. Peter speaks of a “hood” of brothers, not local churches. “-hood” is “A termination denoting state, condition, quality, character, totality, as in manhood, childhood, knighthood, brotherhood.” “Brotherhood” looks at people who have in common the quality of “brothers” because they belong to the same family, having the same Father. No organization or religious “system” is indicated in the word and certainly not something to “investigate.”

The church is “first born ones”: “to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,” Heb 12:23. “Firstborn” is not a reference to Christ but to those who have been “born again”. These people (both those living and having died in Christ) are only “assembled” figuratively in the Lord. Again, no organized religious structure is implied, simply a relationship of

those who’ve been born again with the One who has given them life.


“Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...” 1 Cor 12:27,28a.

This “brotherhood”—this “church of the firstborn”—is under consideration in these verses. It is here called a “body” and notice who comprises it: “you ...individually members.” Christ’s body is composed of people: “first born ones”, “brothers”. This body/church does not—as an entity—“do” or believe anything that one might probe. What is there to “investigate” about this?

How ironic is it that every one of these “investigate the church of Christ” web pages or tracts says “we” are not a denomination? There is no organized, systematized “we” and yet the plea to investigate “us”—the very language of denominationalism—is used.

There is no religious system called “the church of Christ”—at least not in the New Testament. There are many groups of Christians around the world that go by the name “church of Christ”, but they are not a part of some larger “Church of Christ” arrangement. The church Jesus promised to build (“my church”, Mt 16:18) and these local groups (“the churches”, Rev 1:4) are two entirely different

concepts and the former is not composed of the later. Getting people to investigate Christ instead of “the church” will produce

Christians (Acts 11:26) who are converted and dedicated to the Lord, not some institution. 

*Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.*

## Brother and Sister Jones

*By Robert F. Turner*

**BROTHER JONES, Stetson, size 7 1/2;**

Walked the streets of Podunk, had coffee with the Mayor, played golf with the Chief of Police.

**SISTER JONES, sun-bonnet, small;**

Washed the clothes, changed the baby, visited the neighbor.

**BROTHER JONES, 42 long, Baker Bros.;**

Mounted the rostrum, roared like a lion, acknowledged the applause.

**SISTER JONES, gingham, size 12.**


Sat with the neighbor, introduced her to the Lord, prayed and sang.

**BROTHER JONES,**

Striding in front, approached the Pearly Gate. “My wife will be here presently,” he said. “Meanwhile, I’ll be fitted with my robe and crown.”

**BUT THE ATTENDANT REPLIED:**

“Sorry Sir! There is but one outfit prepared: A small crown, and one white robe, size 12.”

—via *Plain Talk*, v17n5, July 1980 

## *Remember in Prayer*

Paul knew the value of prayer: Rom 15:30, “Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me...”

Please continue to be mindful of our sister, **Bernice**, who still suffers from double vision; as well as Billy and

Marie’s grandson, **Austin**.

Don’t forget **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**, both in nursing homes; and continue to pray for **Lois Adams, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples**. 