

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 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor: Kris Vilander**Phone:** (256) 472-1941 (Temporary)**E-mail:** kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org**Website:** www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

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: The Emerson's (7/28)**Area Meetings:** Bethel (14-19);
 Parkway (14-19); Russellville
 (14-19); Westview (14-19);
 Centerview (21-24); Belgreen
 (21-26); Piney Grove (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

Volume 2

July 14, 2019

Number 14

God HATES Divorce

By Bill Hall

"I'm getting a divorce, but I don't plan to marry again." These words are being heard with increasing frequency. Usually the spokesman is thinking that God allows the right to divorce, but would disapprove remarriage. The truth is, however, divorce itself is sinful unless it is for the cause of fornication.

Consider Mt 19:3-6. The question originally asked Jesus by the Pharisees was not concerning remarriage, but concerning divorce: "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus' reply to that question: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." It was only after further questioning that Jesus discussed the problem of remarriage and adultery.

Consider Mal 2:16. "For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away." Even under the old covenant God did not approve of indiscriminate divorce. It is likely that the "tears" of verse 12 which

"covered the altar" and caused the Lord to refuse their offering, were the tears of those who had been wrongfully put away.

Consider Mt 5:32. "Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery." Observe the words, "causeth her" or "maketh her," ASV. This writer understands this verse to say that if one divorces his wife he places her in a position of temptation to commit adultery, and shares the guilt when she does commit adultery. On the other hand, if he puts her away for the cause of fornication, he has put her away legitimately, and shares no guilt in whatever adultery she may subsequently commit.

Consider 1 Cor 7:10: "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband." Observe the word "command" or "charge," ASV. The following verse (v11) does not negate

or nullify this command, but simply recognizes that one might disobey the Lord's command (in which case he sins—1 Jn 3:4), and states his options if he has disobeyed. Not only does the Lord command husband and wife to live together, but he commands them to meet one another's physical needs (1 Cor 7:3-5) and to love one another (Eph 5:25; Tit 2:4-5).

If one companion in a marriage fails along these lines, the other must still be obedient to God, seeking to be

what He would have him or her to be in the marriage relationship. Never should the thought of divorce or separation ever enter the mind unless fornication occurs. We are not suggesting that divorce itself is "adultery," but we are saying that divorce for any cause other than fornication is sin. Christians must not be influenced by the loose standards that prevail in the world in which they live.

—via **the Instructor**, March 1986 

Don't put a question mark
where God put a period.

Church "Cleansing"

By *Robert F. Turner*

During my early preaching years I attended many debates, and heard many quibbles. A common one regarding the establishment of the church was, "Christ died to purchase the church; so the church had to exist before He died or there would have been nothing to purchase," referring to Acts 20:28.

Of course the "church of God" which the overseers are to "feed" consists of people: and Christ's death "paid the debt" "purchased" forgiveness of sins for generations yet unborn—individuals, who through

faith come into Christ (Gal 3:26-27) and, collectively, constitute the church. The church is not something apart from the saints. This answer is so obvious to all who understand God's scheme of redemption that I was shocked recently to hear an offspring of the same old quibble applied to the "cleansing" of the church.

"The church is corrupt now," I was told, "but just before judgement day Christ will take away every spot and wrinkle," referring to Eph 5:25-27. "Someday He will cleanse the


church." We had better read that text again. This is not some wholesale cleaning of an institution, viewed as a vehicle. The church is not a sort of "little red wagon" that rolls along all loaded with ungodly back-sliders; and just before judgement it goes through a "Jiffy Car Wash" and comes out well waxed and polished, ready to bear the riders home to glory.

The "cleansing" is "by the washing of water with the word"—a reference to truth and obedience. The cleansing takes place as Sam, Anna, Lona, Newt, Tom and Susie—individuals through-out the world—recognize their lost condition, and come to Christ for salvation from sins. Independently and severally each one believes in Christ and is baptized "for remission of sins," (cf Mt 26:28, Mk 16:16, and Acts 2:38). This cleansing continues throughout the life-time of each faithful individual—on an individual basis—to the extent that each individual repents of his or her sins and prays God, through Christ, for forgiveness (See Acts 8:13, 18f).

No one is going to be cleansed because his name is on a "church roll"; not even if he has a gold star for being faithful in attendance. It is faithfulness to Christ that counts. When we sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, 1 Jn 1:8-2:6. But we must repent, and confess our sins; and this is done on an individual basis. This is the way Christ "gave Himself for the church" and is "saviour of the body".

"Church" is a collective noun, as is "herd", "flock", etc. The word refers to "called out" people, assembled literally, or figuratively—grouped by virtue of their common relationship and fellowship with God. If a "flock" of sheep is cleansed of vermin, it is because the sheep have been put through the dipping vats. If the "church" is cleansed, it is because the people who make up that assembly have had their sins washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ.

When will we learn that Christ, not the church, is the Saviour!!

—via **Plain Talk**, v6n6, August 1969 

Remember in Prayer

Hazel Teeples has been told that her leg numbness is due to bone spurs in her spine; please continue to pray for her, as well as **Bernice**, who continues to suffer from double vision.

Be mindful of **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**.

