

**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:** The Emerson's (7/28)

**Area Meetings:** Centerview (21-  
 24); Belgreen (21-26); Piney  
 Grove (28-31); Needmore  
 (Haleyville, 8/18-20)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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# The Bible . Examiner

*"Examine everything carefully..." -1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB*

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## It Never Rains

*By John Gibson*

About 34 years ago, while unmarried and living in Beckley, West Virginia, I would occasionally receive a call from my good friend Alan Rich, also single at the time, to ask about playing a round of golf. Though I knew Alan was going to outshoot me, I always enjoyed playing with him and some of the other members of the church, but there were times I would question Alan about the advisability of driving all the way out to Grandview because of the threat of bad weather. After asking the question a few times, I came to know what the answer was going to be—"It never rains on the golf course." If he had enough time off from work to play, we were going to play and a little rain wasn't going to stop us.

But then there was the day we were at the Grandview golf course and while the rain had begun to fall, we continued to play. Eventually, I found myself trying to stand upright in


a fierce wind, being pelted by hail as I prepared to swing my club, a.k.a. lightning rod, and there came a lightning bolt and clap of thunder that seemed to be simultaneous. Alan looked at the rest of us and said, "It's raining," and we all headed for cover.

As members of a local body, we have obligations to God and one another. We might start with the exhortation to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," Heb 10:24,25. There is also the obligation to speak to one another and teach and admonish in song, Eph 5:19; Col 3:16. When a church commits itself to authorized financial endeavors, 2 Cor 8,9, each member should feel an obligation to contribute to meeting that need, 1 Cor. 16:1,2. Perhaps it could be summed up this way: "every joint" is to supply what it can and "every part" is to do its share in

contributing to the building up of the body, Eph 4:16.

Now what does this have to do with the story about rain on the golf course? There are going to be times when the most devoted saints, disciples who delight in worshiping God and being with their brothers and sisters, will not be able to assemble. There may come a time when health concerns render one permanently unable to gather with the saints, but I want us to honestly ask ourselves if we are approaching our worship assemblies as we should. Shouldn't those who seek first God's kingdom

and righteousness, Mt 6:33, be of the mind that "it never rains on Sunday or Wednesday?" Shouldn't it take, figuratively speaking, hail and lightning to keep us home instead of a few clouds or even a light drizzle?

Please understand, I do not question the legitimacy of all absences, for I know that sickness and failing health can prevent our doing what we most want to do. However, I have observed through the years that when it comes to missing the assemblies of the saints, it takes a lot less "rain" for some than it does for others. 

# Will The Real Legalist Please Stand Up!

*By David Diestelkamp*

It is a familiar, oft repeated scenario: Someone suggests that something is wrong because it is unwise or unauthorized or within the silence of God, and immediately a charge is leveled that the person is being a bigoted, judgmental, legalist—binding where God has not bound. I think something important is missing in this line of thinking.

A lot has already been said by others about not binding the ideas and traditions of men. It's a needed, but not new, warning, Mt 15:9. A lot has already


been said by others about our need to obey the revealed will of God in all aspects. It's also a needed, but not new, warning, 2 Thess. 1:8.

One of the greatest struggles in balancing these two not mutually exclusive Biblical concepts is in the area of silence or uncertainty. Some silence or uncertainty may be due to an individual's ignorance of the Scriptures. He or she just hasn't found it in the text or understood it yet. In some cases, Scripture gives us some information but not enough to know something for

certain or reach a reasonable conclusion. And there are times when there simply isn't anything in Scripture about a subject. So, when we aren't sure from Scripture (due to silence, vagueness, or ignorance), what must we do?

Begin by remembering that silence isn't always silence. We rarely have what I'll call "silent silence" in Scripture. For example, crack cocaine isn't mentioned at all in the Bible, but the Bible isn't silent on self-control and sober mindedness, principles which recreational use of crack threatens and violates. We are often told that the Bible is silent concerning church buildings, however the New Testament's information concerning church assemblies necessarily implies a place—meaning that there isn't "silent silence" concerning church buildings (places for assembling). Other examples can be given, but I think you see the point. "Silent silence" only occurs in Scripture when there is no authority for or information about a matter from which we can make applications, draw conclusions, learn wisdom, etc.

Of course, sometimes "silent silence" does exist in Scripture. Moses provided some age-lasting advice for such situations in Numbers 9:8. Moses was asked what those should do who were prevented from keeping the Passover. Lacking revelation on this, Moses replied, "Stand still, that I may hear what the Lord will command concerning you." Is not this the response throughout Scripture concerning "silent silence"? Is not this the very purpose of Scripture?

Now look at this a different way. What is someone really saying when they insist on an answer for, "Where does it say it is wrong?" or "Where does it say not to?" or "Where is it totally forbidden?" Are they not saying they will only accept something as wrong if a law specifically says it is wrong? Must there be a legal system to spell out everything not to do? Must there be a specific commandment forbidding a thing before it should be avoided? These people demand laws, legal systems, and commandments. "I will only be controlled or stopped by laws, legal systems, and commandments." Who is the real "legalist" when it comes to God's silence? 

## *Remember in Prayer*

Billy and Marie McNatt's grandson, **Austin**, still stands in need of prayer; **Dot and Tim Hice** could also use a good dose of encouragement.

Remember **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**, both in nursing homes; and as always, continue to pray for **Lois Adams, Carolyn Dennis, Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeple**. 