

**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

*"...all of you who were baptized  
 into Christ have clothed yourselves  
 with Christ." —Gal 3:27*



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**Servants during December:**

**Songleader:** Peter (1), Dwight (8),  
 Stanley (15), Larry (22), David (29)

**Reading:** Robert

**Announcements:** Marty

**Table:** Larry, Mike, Lakin, Stanley

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (4), Stanley  
 (11), Kris (18), Larry (25)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** On  
 Break...

**Singing:** TBA (29)

**Area Meetings:** Tri-Cities (8-11)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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 Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

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

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# I'm Gay and God Loves Me!

*By Bill Beasley*

So read, I am told, a tee-shirt worn in public by a mature (age-wise) man. As strange as it may seem to some who know me, I am in complete agreement with what is actually said on the shirt. The statement is true, and I can prove it by turning to God's word. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life," Jn 3:16. God's love for the world (i.e., people living in the world) is all encompassing and excludes no one. This beautiful passage does not say, nor even imply, that God loves the righteous and those who obey Him, to the exclusion of others. Well, so much for what the shirt says.

What is not said, but what the wearer wanted people to believe, is "I'm gay and God approves of my lifestyle!" What is actually said and what is implied are worlds apart. God's love (Greek =

agape) has naught to do with whether or not He approves of the actions (lifestyle) of the individual. The following statements (patterned after the statement on the shirt) would be just as true (concerning the love of God): "I'm a mass murderer and God loves me;" "I'm a pedophile and God loves me;" "I'm a rapist and God loves me;" "I'm a thief and God loves me;" "I'm an adulterer/adulteress and God loves me;" "I'm a liar and God loves me." God loves each of these individuals (and all of us who have been guilty of other sins) with a love so strong that He sent His only begotten Son to pay the penalty for their (our) sins by dying on the cross. God's Son died so that you, the shirt wearer, and all of us might be saved from our sins (from the eternal penalty of our sins), but certainly not in (while embracing and living in) our sins.

The shirt wearer has evidently made the mistake of implying/thinking/believing that God's love equals God's approval and/or that God's love equals salvation. He certainly was not the first to make this mistake (assumption), and will undoubtedly not be the last. "For God so loved the world," but the truth is that the majority of God's creation will not be allowed in heaven, but will be in eternal torment. "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it," Mt 7:13,14. It is the many versus the few. No, I do not know the exact number that constitutes "many" nor how small the number must be to be but "few," but I do understand the point being made. In the flood there were only eight who were saved (see Gen 6,7, noting especially 7:13). In the destruction of Sodom there were, in the final outcome, only three (see Genesis 19, especially verses 15 and 26) that were not consumed in the flames or turned into a pillar of salt.

"You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is abomination," Lev 18:22. "If there is a man who lies with

a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death; their bloodguiltiness is upon them," Lev 20:13.

"For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error," Rom 1:26,27. Do I hate the ones who do such things? No! No! A thousand times No!

I do not hate the murderer, rapist, pedophile, thief, liar, adulteress, or the homosexual. Their actions are the subject of hatred, but not the individual. I would that they would come to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that the Bible really means what it says, Mk 16:16; repent of their sins, Acts 17:30; confess their faith in Christ, Mt 10:32; and be baptized in order to receive the remission of sins, Acts 2:38. Then I, along with thousands of my brothers and sisters in Christ, would welcome them. This is not hatred, this is love! 📖

# Human Faith

By Robert Turner

In his book The Pattern of Religious Authority (p28,29), Bernard Ramm says, "Having rejected the authority of the Roman Church and its efforts to underwrite the authority of the Bible, Calvin might then have turned to human

reason to demonstrate the authority of the Bible. But there were two matters causing hesitancy in this procedure: (1) The human reason had come under certain darkening effects from sin; and (2) Being fully persuaded by human reason

the believer would still have but human faith. There must be a divine certainty about divine matters." Ramm goes on to say that Calvin found his answer in the "internal or secret witness of the Holy Spirit."

The faith of a human is "human faith"—what else? It is a human's acceptance of evidence, which genders trust. There is first the FACT, be it something Jesus said or a miracle he performed. Then, there is a WITNESS to the fact; followed by TESTIMONY. God produces the facts, and His Spirit delivered those facts unerringly via the witnesses, Jn 14:26; 16:12f. This is GOD, loving His creatures, giving His Son to die for them, and calling all creatures with the gospel. God knows his creatures, and is capable of calling so all may understand, and be justly condemned if they refuse to heed, Jn 3:16-21. Then MAN hears, and believes or disbelieves. God is Savior of all men, "especially of those who believe," 1 Tim 4:10.

But Ramm and other evangelicals give "human faith" an illogical twist. With a theological base that denies free will and accepts unconditional particular election, they confuse the reception of evidence with its source a testing standards. The Greeks relied upon "worldly wisdom" to test the validity of the gospel message—and pronounced it "foolish." This is no argument against the use of human senses (to hear God's

word) or human capacity to receive it into honest hearts (seat of intellect) so as to believe and act upon it. Is God incapable of calling by His word, Jn 6?

Paul came in "the demonstration of the Spirit and power, so that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but in the power of God," 1 Cor 2:4f. He proved the source of the message to be divine. Men were expected to accept the message because of its divine source, rather than because it could be proven true in a laboratory. But they accepted it with their human senses—what else?

In recent years several brethren have written disparagingly of man's ability to reason upon scriptures. "If we must reason on it, this is dependence upon man." The most simple and direct statement requires human assimilation, making the understanding of scriptures (milk and meat) a matter of degree. There is no scriptural reason to deny man's capacity to hear, believe and obey. I fear some have been trapped in the evangelical theology of depravity, "experience of grace" and "enabling power." They cannot equate "grace" with "free will" response. And saddest of all, they are on a track that finally demands "internal and secret witness of the Holy Spirit"—in reality reliance upon subjective "feeling" which dethrones the God they claim to praise.

—via *Plain Talk*, August, 1980 📖

# Remember in Prayer

**Betty** fell, and is using a walker while healing; **Robert** still suffers from his teeth extraction (and **Anna** is scheduled to have her wisdom teeth out this Wednesday)...

Remember our sisters, **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**, both of which are in nursing homes; as well as **Lois Adams**, **Carolyn Dennis**, **Tim** and **Dot Hice**, **Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples**. 📖