

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

"Flee immorality. ...the immoral man sins against his own body."
—1 Corinthians 6:18



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Servants during January:

Songleader: Peter (5), Dwight (12), Stanley (19), Larry (26), David (2/2)

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Robert

Table: David, Peter, Marty, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (1), Kris (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris (29), Larry (2/5)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

On winter break...

Singing: TBD (1/26)

Area Meetings: College View (2/15 Men's Study); South Cullman (17-19); North Jasper (18); Kelly Spring Road (2/21-23)

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 Secret Things

By Jeff Himmel

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law," Deut 29:29, NIV.

These words, spoken by Moses to Israel long ago, still carry an important message for God's people. Consider three concepts that are emphasized in this verse.

The Danger of Speculation

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God." There is much that God has not revealed to us. While it's interesting to think about such things, it isn't really profitable. In fact, speculating about unrevealed matters can be dangerous. Paul warned Timothy of some who had "turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not

understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions," 1 Tim 1:6,7. He told him to "refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels," 2 Tim 2:23. And he encouraged Titus to "avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless," Tit 3:9.

Speculation is at its worst when it becomes the basis for belief and practice. Much of what men call "theology" is just conjecture about unrevealed matters. And much of what men call "worship" or "ministry" or "religion" is action without divine authorization. God warns against adding to His revelation. "Every word of God is tested... Do not add to His words, or

He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar,” Prov 30:5,6. Instead of speculating where God has not spoken and presuming to act where He is silent, we need to apply ourselves to what He has revealed.

The Blessing of Revelation


“The things revealed belong to us and to our children forever.” A “secret” or “mystery” is something covered up or hidden; a “reve-la-tion” is something uncovered. In His revelation, God is sharing His mind with us. “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law,” Prov 29:18. Without God’s revelation we’d be groping in darkness, unable to know what He has done, what He has promised, or how we should live. “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?” 1 Cor 2:16.

God has communicated His will to us. What a great blessing! In Christ, God has revealed to us what even the prophets of old did not understand, Heb 1:1,2; 1 Pet 1:10-12. We should be thankful for God’s revelation and

diligent in learning it. Praising the commandments of God’s law, David said, “They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb,” Psa 19:7-10.

The Responsibility of Those Who Hear

“That we may follow all the words of this law.” Since God has revealed His will, we have a responsibility to know it and obey it. His law defines right and wrong conduct. Without such a standard, sin would not exist, Rom 5:13. But since we have access to the revelation of God’s standard, we are without excuse when we violate it, cf Jn 15:22.

God promises to hold us accountable for our response to His revelation. Our text in Deuteronomy 29 comes just after a list of blessings on obedience and curses on disobedience, in chapters 27 and 28. And Jesus promised, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day,” Jn 12:48. 


inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you,” Acts 17:22,23.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR LIFE’S “JOURNEY” IS LARGELY DETERMINED BY THE “MAPS” OF REALITY THAT ARE STORED IN OUR MINDS. If our maps are wrong — if they don’t accurately represent the “territory” as it really is — we’ll be misdirected and end up far from where we need to go as human beings. In the end, we’ll be disappointed with our “destination” if we’ve based our actions on erroneous ideas about what is true and real. Our perceptions of reality are very important. They need to be as accurate as possible.

But if we can see that our maps, our “paradigms,” are important in life generally, can we see how crucial they are when the specific subject is God? If by “theology” we mean the “study of God,” there could hardly be a study of more PRACTICAL importance. A. W. Tozer was right when he argued, “It is impossible to keep our moral practices sound and our inward attitudes right while our idea of God is erroneous or inadequate. If we would bring back spiritual power to

our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as He is.” To have maps of THIS territory that turn out to be wrong is to have a problem of eternal proportions.

None of us can say that we are entirely free of this problem. Even at our best, the tendency is for us to worship not the Creator but creatures of our own desire. To some extent, all of us have involved ourselves in idolatry, which is the worship of something other than God as He truly is. So the question is not whether anyone presently has a full knowledge of God, but whether we are moving in that direction. Jesus said, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent,” Jn 17:3. Growing in our understanding of God requires honesty, humility, repentance, diligent study, and a host of other demanding requirements. But there can be no eternal life for us if we fail to set the knowledge of God as our highest goal and pursue it with wholehearted passion.

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us” (A. W. Tozer). 

The Ultimate Paradigm

By Gary Henry

“Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things

you are very religious; for as I was passing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this

Remember in Prayer

Faye is recovering from hip replacement surgery; **Dot** fell Thursday, and is bruised but okay; and **Dwight Presnell** is still recovering from surgery.

Please pray for all these, as well as **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**; also **Lois Adams**, **Carolyn Dennis**, **Tim Hice**, **Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples**. 