

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
Speaker, Robert Emerson
 Study Sunday **Postponed**
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve **Postponed**
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

*"...I have made the Lord GOD
 my refuge, that I may tell of all
 Your works." —Psalm 73:28*



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**Servants during May:**

Songleader: Stanley (3), Larry (10),
 David (17), Peter (24), Chandler (31)

Reading: David

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Chandler, Mike, Marty

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (6), Kris (13),
 Larry (20), Stanley (27)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris
 (3), Larry (10), Kris (17), Marty
 (24), Stanley (31)

Singing: Perhaps 6/28?

Area Meetings: We will update as
 we find out more information...

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 3

May 10, 2020

Number 4

Grammar and the Gospel

By Kenny Chumbley

Many years ago, I was invited to speak for a congregation in the Northwest. Just a few minutes after I began, an older gentleman entered the auditorium and sat in a chair against the back wall. Because I had an unobstructed view, I could see that he would occasionally jot something down in a notepad he had brought with him. I figured he was probably writing down some of my more brilliant and insightful comments (of which there were many!).

After the service, this man (who turned out to be a preacher from the area) approached me in

the vestibule and began by saying, "You only made three grammatical errors in your sermon!" He explained that as a young man he had attended Freed-Hardeman College and had taken Brother Claude Hall's class in spoken English. I've known others who took that class and have been told that Hall would often assign a student a topic, then ask him to stand in front of the class and speak on the topic. The student was allowed to continue until he made a grammatical error, at which point he had to sit down. I've been told that some students had to sit down after saying just


two or three words. The brother who kept track of my miscues meant it as a compliment that I'd only made three mistakes the entire sermon. I remember thinking that if he only came to grade a visiting preacher's English, he should have stayed home. Other than that, I don't remember what I said to him. Whatever it was, I sure hope I didn't dangle a participle.

I have nothing against good grammar being used in preaching. It was said about Benjamin Franklin (the pioneer preacher, not the founding father) that "His education had been very limited, and consequently, his grammar was poor. His form of delivery showed his backwoods culture. John Longley, one of Indiana's early pioneer preachers, often went to hear Franklin, and was one of his severe critics. Franklin had unconsciously formed the habit of saying, 'My dear friends and brethering' and he always had the 'ing' on it. Longley took a piece of paper and a pin at one meeting and made a hole for every time Franklin repeated this phrase. At the conclusion of the sermon, he counted one hundred and fifty holes," (West, Earl Irvin, The Search for the Ancient Order, V1,

p101,102). A story involving Henry Ward Beecher is about a lady who said to him, "You made three mistakes in grammar this morning in your sermon," Beecher replied, "Madam, I feel sorry for the grammar that gets in the way when I'm preaching." Ain't it the truth!

"Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly," Phil 1:14. "Speak" in this verse, doesn't mean "preach," but "to talk," "to tell"; it is a word that was used for everyday conversation. Communicating the gospel isn't the exclusive domain of orators but the privilege of every believer.

There are Christians who don't know a verb from an herb, but they can effectively tell others the story of Jesus. Mastering the King's English is not necessary to sharing the gospel. The power of our message is in our God, not in our grammar, Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 2:1-5.

A man once said to D. L. Moody, "Your grammar is poor." Moody said, "I know it. But I am making the best of what I have." Are we? 

collective worship and church organization.


The Quantity of References Doesn't Necessarily Reflect The Importance of The Matter At Hand.

There are very few direct references to the Lord's Supper in the New Testament. Yet, who would deny that it is a key element of the Christian's life and his fellowship with others? To say that the Lord's Supper is of little importance because of the paucity of direct references to it would be a major blunder.

What Is The Purpose Of This Type Of Statement?

Is it repeated to imply that how we organize ourselves in local bodies and how we worship collectively is of little importance? If so, what is wrong with organizing ourselves with presiding bishops, regional bishops, archbishops or even a pope? What would be wrong with holy water, Latin mass, the rosary, etc? If how we worship collectively is of little importance, what about fog

machines, laser shows, screaming rock bands and other elements of entertainment-oriented worship? Are we willing to accept all the consequences of implying that church organization and congregational worship are of relatively little importance? Sometimes we just throw out statements without considering the results of taking them to their logical conclusions.

I think I understand some of the concerns of many who make such declarations. Yes, there are some who emphasize external acts of worship and yet seem to show little concern for the inner man. A few are grouchy or just plain mean. Yes, Pharisaism is a legitimate danger. Yet in our concern for one error, let's not commit another by implying that it doesn't matter so much how we worship collectively or organize ourselves. That's the type of thinking that led to Romanism and modernism. Let's not go down that road again. 

Remember in Prayer

Hazel Teeples passed from this life Sunday (5/10) afternoon; please continue to pray for **Barbara** and the rest of her family.

Tim came back home Saturday, and it sounds like he is much better.

Please continue to pray for **Lois**


Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Polly McNatt... 

*God willing, although we will be spread out in the building, we will be meeting again **starting this Wednesday, 5/13/20!** See the meeting times on the back of this bulletin...*

So, why? Why do it? Why paste on that smile and put one foot in front of the other? You are exhausted!

Perhaps you are demonstrating the glory of God in your life, Mt 5:16. Others can marvel at the difference they see in you as compared to others. Living on Earth is hard but Heaven—oh yes—Heaven is waiting, Jn 14:3. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven,” Mt 5:3. We are told God’s word should live in us, 1 Cor 3:16. Paul said in Phil 4:11, “I am content in any situation.” He didn’t hide his

struggles, yet he did not dwell on them. How could he? He was too busy teaching others about the race he was running, 1 Cor 9:24-27, his goal and his Guide.

A positive demeanor brings comfort to others and opens doors to offer help. Yes, being positive is exhausting. Is it worth the effort so that more time, attention and resources can be given to others? Are there times we need to allow others to help us? Oh yes. But don’t become comfortable in the position of the served, it could hinder you from being the servant, Mt 25:31-46. 

Is That Really True?

By Gardner Hall

“The New Testament actually has very little to say about congregational worship or organization!”

This type of statement is becoming popular in a number of circles and a brief review of it is in order.

It Is An Exaggeration. It would be true to say that more of the New Testament is dedicated to expressions of God’s love and the need personal holiness and

responsibility than to congregational activity. However, to say that the New Testament has “very little” to say about it is an exaggeration. A number of chapters deal directly with congregational worship and organization: 1 Corinthians 11-14; 1 Timothy (most of the book); good portions of 2 Timothy and Titus; and James 2:1-12 are a few sections that come to mind. There are many more indirect references to

Matters of Faith or Opinion

By Marshall E. Patton

QUESTION: Please clearly distinguish between “matters of faith” and “matters of opinion.” If liberty is to be exercised in “matters of opinion,” how far does this liberty go? Is there any divine limitation? — H.A.B.

ANSWER: The above question evidently grows out of a consideration of a motto that has been used by brethren since early in the restoration movement: “In faith unity; in opinion liberty; in all things charity.” Various meanings have been given to the phrases of this motto, and I am persuaded that it has been greatly misunderstood and abused. Especially is this so when the interpretations are considered in the light of divine revelation. Space limit forbids dealing at this time with these interpretations in the light of truth, but I suggest the matter as one worthy of study.

“Matters of faith” and “matters of opinion” are expressions that may be and often are used in different senses. Failure to determine the sense in which they

are used results in confusion. Since faith comes by hearing the word of God, Rom 10:17, it follows that “matters of faith” are matters **revealed**. In contrast to this “matters of opinion” are matters **unrevealed**. However, to apply the motto phrase “in opinion liberty” to the whole of this area is to go beyond what the Bible teaches.


There are different areas of opinion, and the Bible imposes a different duty with respect to each. (1) There are things on which we have **no revelation**, e.g., the following questions: Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus by night? Out of what kind of burning bush did God speak to Moses? What was Paul’s thorn in the flesh? On such matters liberty may be exercised in thought only. Our duty is to hold such opinions to ourselves. If they be expressed, taught, and forced upon others division is inevitable. Consider Deut 29:29. (2) There are some who have opinions on things on which we **have revelation**, e.g., the kind of music in worship, “mode

of baptism,” and the time (day) to observe the Lord’s supper. Here no liberty can be tolerated at all. While one’s opinion may be that something else will do just as well as that which is revealed, such an opinion is wrong to begin with. Our duty is to have **no opinion at all**. Consider Col 3:17; 2 John 9. (3) There are matters within an area authorized by some generic term. These are authorized though not specified. These are called **expedients**. It is here that the restoration motto “in opinion liberty” applies. However, the liberty exercised in this area is limited! The divine limitations are found primarily in the following references: 1 Cor 6:12; 10:23; Rom 14:19-23. From these passages we learn that in order for any expedient to be acceptable unto God it must (1) be “lawful”, (2) it must “edify”, and (3) it must not “offend.” These conditions tell us how far liberty in this realm may go. Tolerance is to be exercised only so long as the above mentioned conditions are faithfully observed.

From one point of view expedients may be called matters of faith, because they are within an area authorized by the Word (being authorized by some generic term), hence, are “lawful,” Rom 10:17; 1 Cor 10:23. From another viewpoint they may be called matters of opinion, because the Word has not specified which of the

authorized expedients is to be used, and human judgment (opinion) must take over and select one in harmony with the above mentioned conditions. In this latter sense “matters of opinion” simply refers to lawful expedients. When the expression “matters of opinion” is used in this sense and the expression “matters of faith” is used in contrast to it, the meaning is as follows: “matters of faith” refers to things **specifically** authorized; “matters of opinion” refers to things **generically** authorized. This is the most common usage of the expressions. These considerations show why it is necessary to understand the sense in which the expressions are used.


It is a mistake to think that matters of opinion (expedients) are governed **only** by human judgment and 1 Cor 14:40, as some have claimed. This concept accounts for such expressions as: “Where there is no pattern,” “We do many things for which we have no authority,” “We do not have to have Scripture for everything,” and “We have as much Scripture for this as you do that”—implying there is no Scripture for either. Remember, matters of opinion (expedients) are **within** a divinely authorized area. We walk by faith every step of the way, 2 Cor 5:7; Rom 10:17; 1 Cor 10: 23; Col 3:17; 2 John 9.

—via *Searching the Scriptures*, Feb 1962, v3 n2 p6. 

Consequences

By Bill Crews

Thoughts entertained, words uttered, and deeds done have consequences. Like seed that is sown, they bear fruit—pleasant or bitter, good or evil. Decisions made, choices selected, steps taken, courses begun bring us, in time, to the goals, the destinies to which they inevitably lead.

Many are traveling toward goals and destinies of which they seem absolutely unaware or foolishly unconcerned—goals and destinies that will prove tragic and painful. Only God can see the end from the beginning; in His revealed word, He tries to tell us. 

Being Positive Can Be Exhausting

Author unknown

Power of Positive Mom's; Power of Positive Thinking; Learned Optimism; Blink: Positive Thinking; these are only a few of the hundreds of books on positive thinking. Most people don't like to be around Debbie or Donald Downers. Negativity can suck the life out of an otherwise good day. Even the Bible speaks of positivity, “A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones,” Prov 17:22. But, have you ever wanted to shout, “I’m tired of being positive!” You smile when

your thoughts are drawn to struggling family and friends. You say, “I’m fine,” when your body is falling apart. “It will be okay,” really means, “I don’t know how that next bill will be paid. Or, you may see a Facebook post, “God is good,” and you tremble when the question, “Is He?” creeps into your thoughts. You are tired of putting up that front. It reminds one of the old song by Smokey Robinson, “Tears of a Clown.”