

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
Speaker, Robert Emerson
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
 —1 John 4:1

**Servants during February/March:**

Songleader: Stanley (28); Larry (3/7), David (14), Peter (21), Stanley (28)

Reading: Robert; David (Mar)

Announcements: Stanley; Marty (Mar)

Table: Larry, Mike Beckman, Mike Mitchell, Peter; Mike Beckman, Larry, Mike Mitchell, Stanley (Mar)

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (3/3), Kris (10), Larry (17), Stanley (24), Kris (31)

Lawn Mowing (assuming it needs done, week starting): Robert (3/7), Larry (14), Kris (21), Marty (28)

**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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Five Reasons to Use Your Bound Bible And NOT Your Smartphone in Worship

By David Smith

Now before you hastily write me off as a Luddite (someone who protests innovation) or a stick-in-the-mud, understand that I do probably more than 85% of my Bible reading online on my notebook. That's right. However, when I'm in public, I deliberately do 99% of my reading from a bound Bible. (Yes, I'm aware there's a picture floating around somewhere of me baptizing my own daughter back in the day while reading Scripture from my PDA). So why go bound? Because I think you'll find the experience liberating! But if you need more reasons, here are five:

You Will Eliminate a Temptation Factor: Though you might be able to resist giving your e-mail a quick check or sending a text to a friend, the willpower of others around you might not be so strong. Why risk luring others into the land of distraction


when you're both to be about worshipping God together and building each other up?

You Will Encourage the Teacher or Preacher: You do deliberately try to encourage those who feed you the Word in the way you listen, right? Use a bound Bible and they won't have to wonder if you're playing Angry Birds or looking up those verses in 2 Corinthians 5. That's encouraging. Let them hear the light rustle of many pages turning whenever a Scripture is referenced and their pulse will quicken, their heart will be sparked, their mind will become more focused, and their passion will be stirred a bit more. That's encouraging. Deliberately encourage your teachers and preachers every week and you'll make them better teachers and preachers.

You Will Maximize Your Ability to Understand Your Bible: Sure, you can look up multiple translations on a smartphone, but that doesn't hold a candle to being able to see a Scripture in its surrounding context at a glance. Unless you're really working your mobile app hard, you're just not going to get the context in your head and even if you do, it will have been so time-consuming that the speaker will be way down the road from where you are by then. You don't look at the world through a paper-towel tube, so why look at your Bible through a three-verse window?

You Will Usually Be Quicker On the Draw: I've tried a number of electronic Bibles, PDAs, and smartphones. Only very rarely can I look up a passage faster on a mobile electronic device than I can in my paper Bible. By the time someone has just navigated through the menus I'm already just about there or have been

there for a while. Especially if my paper Bible has index tabs. When I get beat is when it's a rather obscure reference (e.g. Nahum 2:13). Must I even mention that bound Bibles never lose their charge or need to be reset, either?

You Will Give a Powerful Visual to All Who See It, Especially Children: One of the most influential memories seared into my mind is that of an elderly brother in Christ who carried his extremely well-worn Bible with him everywhere he went. And I do mean everywhere except the shower. And it was obvious that it wasn't worn primarily from being carried. God only knows how many times that image has roused my hunger for God's Word. Somehow the image of a well-worn Otter box encased iPhone just doesn't evoke the same now, does it? And it never will, for it can't. Keep your influence as parents and grandparents in mind. 

Test The Spirits

By Mike Thomas

Christians of the first century had to “test the spirits” with the word of God to avoid being misled by false teachers. Those who were unalert or naïve were prime targets for deceitful influences. The apostle John warned, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world,” 1 Jn 4:1. The “spirit” he was

concerned with was a theory in his day (Gnosticism) that said the material world was evil and that God would not occupy the flesh. John had to counter this philosophy with the warning that “...every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God,” 1 Jn 4:3. He would tell us the same thing today in response to the influences of Islam, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Judaism, since they


also deny Jesus was God in the flesh. None of them agree with John's testimony that “the Word was God,” Jn 1:1, and “became flesh and dwelt among us,” Jn 1:14. They would rather have us believe that Jesus was sent by God, but was not God's Son or a member of the Godhead, Col 2:9. They want us to think He was a prophet and a good man; just not the Son of God. Like the first Christians, we are to test these spirits with the word of God to avoid their error.

The deity of Christ is not the only aspect of God's will from which Christians can be misled. There are spirits that also deny there is “one body and one Spirit... one hope... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all,” Eph 4:4-7. Some may teach God's will on loving others, yet deny baptism is essential for salvation, 1 Pet 3:21. Some will teach the truth on baptism, yet dismiss God's command to worship while “singing and making melody with your heart,” Eph 5:19. Others will avoid making melody on mechanical instruments in worship, yet ignore God's will to not make social programs the work of the church, 1 Cor 11:22. The world is filled with all kinds of philosophies that make people feel religious and close to God, but are not taught in God's word. The devil operates through these

influences to persuade us to believe a lie. It is as Paul said to the Corinthians:

“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.” 2 Cor 11:3,4.

If we are to avoid religious error we must compare every teaching (spirit) to the word of God and remain only with the truth. Remember the Bereans, who “...received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so,” Acts 17:11. Being religious is not enough to walk with God. We must also abide in teachings that are consistent with His will. Namely, “By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother,” 1 Jn 3:10. Any teaching that results in a different conclusion is not of God but of the world—from “deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,” 1 Tim 4:1—as any good examination will prove.

—Via *Meditate on These Things*, 9/2018 

Remember in Prayer

Pray often for our sister **Joyce** as she continues to deal with cancer; **Betty** is suffering from bronchitis. Remember also **Lois Adams'** family;

she passed away last Sunday morning. Please continue to pray for **Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, and Tim and Dot Hice.** 