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Speaker, Robert Emerson
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Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
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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

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—Revelation 21:22

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

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What Can We Know About Heaven?

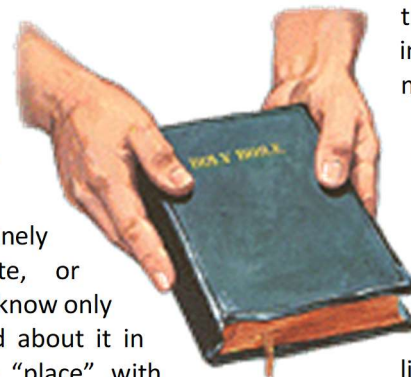
By Robert F. Turner

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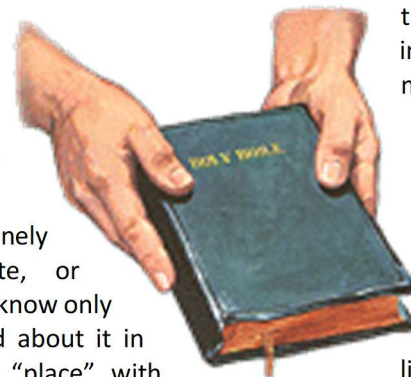
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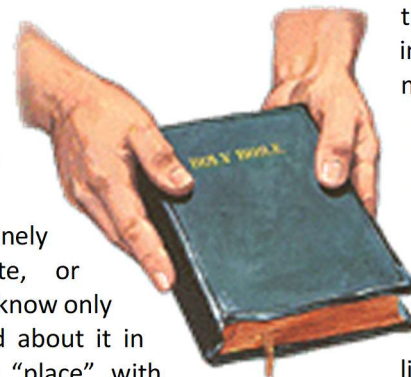
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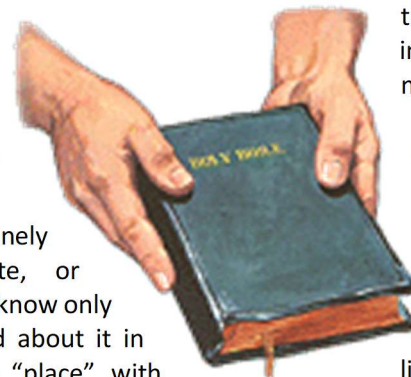
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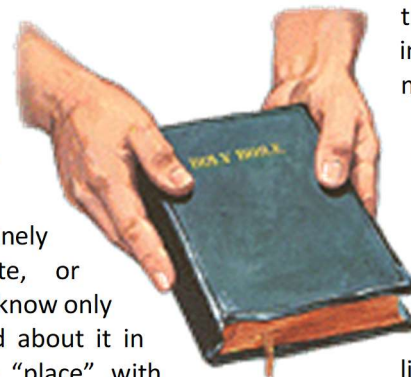
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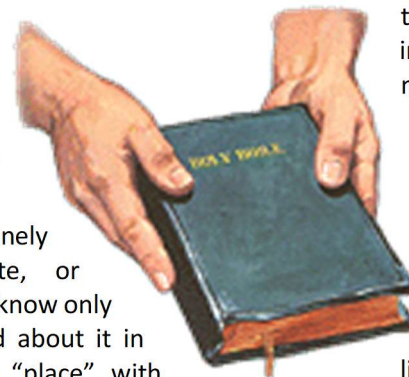
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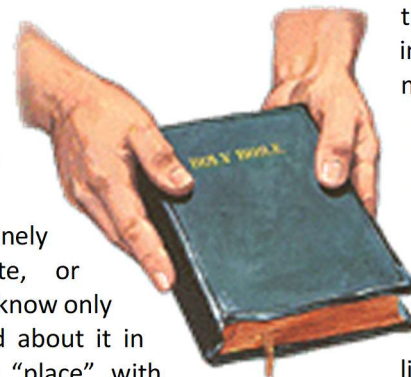
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"Examine everything carefully..." -1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 3

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What Can We Know About Heaven?

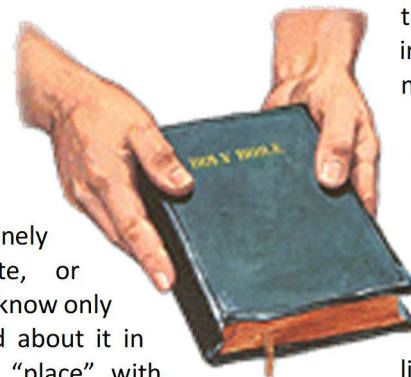
By Robert F. Turner

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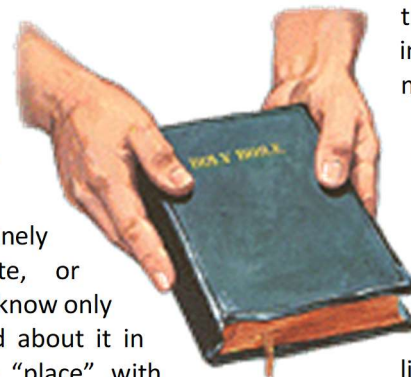
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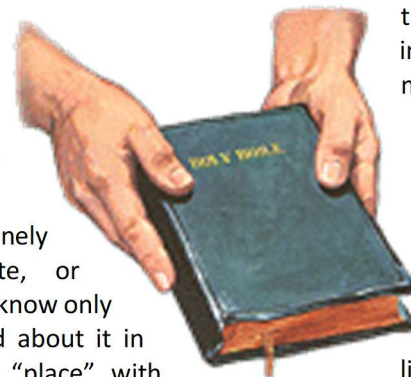
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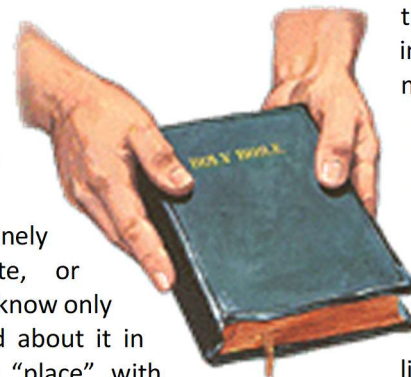
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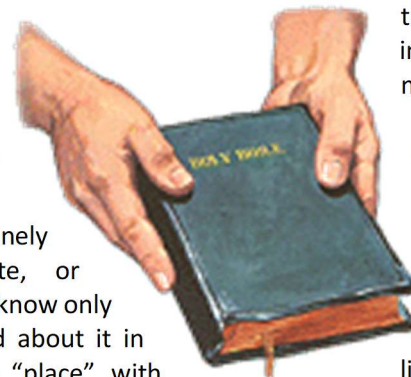
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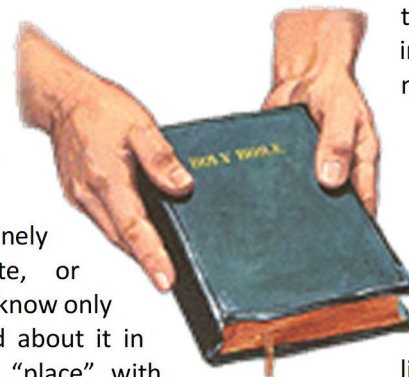
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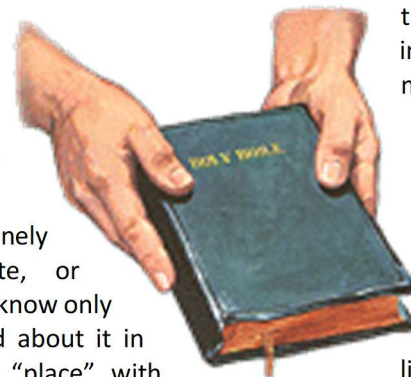
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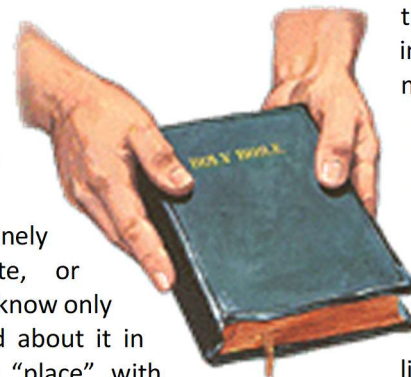
By Robert F. Turner

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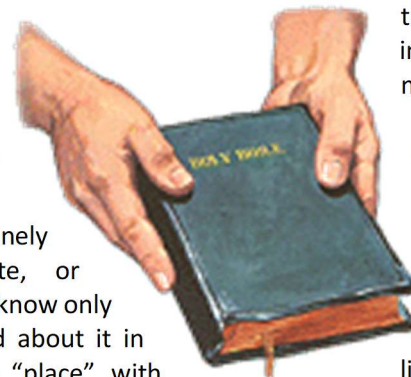
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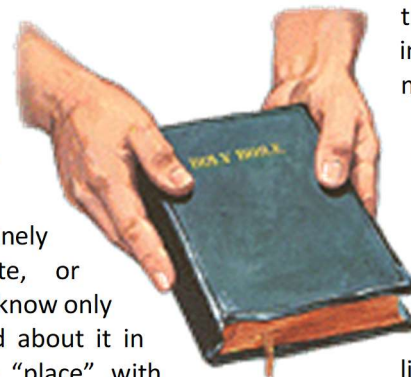
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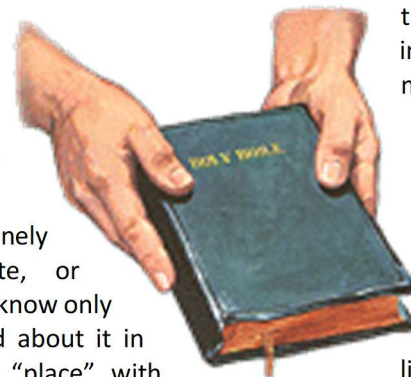
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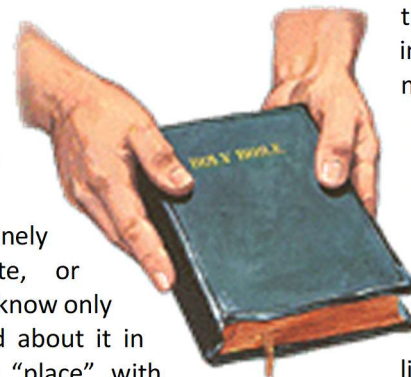
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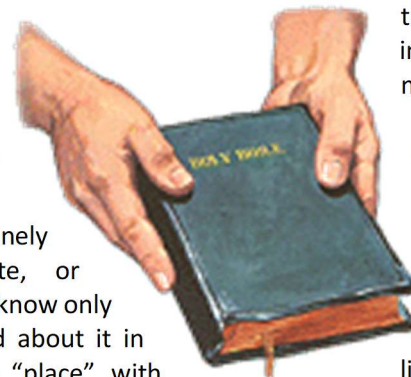
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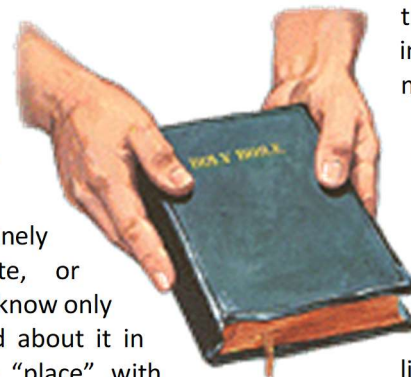
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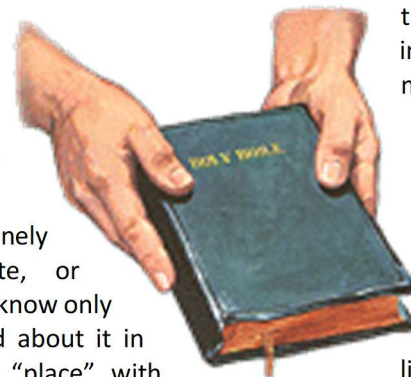
By Robert F. Turner

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"Heaven" is a divinely revealed place, state, or condition; and we can know only that which is revealed about it in God's word. We say "place" with some hesitation, using accommodative language; for "location" is space related, and may lose its literal significance when applied to eternity. But God's word is directed to time and

space related beings, and information about deity and eternity are necessarily couched in terms that translate into mental images. We cannot truly imagine "eternity" or things eternal in nature, so we must expect the Bible to use anthropomorphisms: whereby things of God, totally incomprehensible to mortal man, are described in the time and space terms of man.

Jewish typology finds its final usage here. God built a literal people, a literal nation, through whom His Son would put on flesh and dwell among men. He used these people, a distinct advantage to them, as His vehicle for demonstrating God-to-man dealings, Rom. 3:1ff; 9:4,5. Then,



as His eternal purpose began to reach its fruition in Christ, the literal kingdom of Israel is seen as a type of His spiritual rule over whosoever will. Christ reigns on “David’s throne,” and is our High Priest “after the order of Melchizedek,” Acts 2:30ff; Heb. 6:20ff. Scattered Israel finds a “highway” and “returns... in righteousness,” Isa 10:20ff; 35:8ff; and all Christians are “Abraham’s seed” or “the Israel of God,” Gal 3:29; 6:16. It should come as no surprise that heaven is called “New Jerusalem”; and praise to God there is described in Jewish terms: “...golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints,” Rev 5:8.

The apocalyptic description of heaven, Rev 21:1ff, speaks of the “Holy City” Jerusalem, with its walls of jasper, and other precious stones; its street (singular) of gold; twelve gates, each made of a single pearl, named after the twelve tribes of Israel. The tabernacle (KJV) of God is there, but this is the true abode of Jehovah—not a “tent” in which the “presence” of God is indicated by a cloud of glory. In fact, we are told “I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple,” Rev 21:22. God is on His throne, for the authority of God is eternal. There is plenty of water, and trees, including the “tree of life,” (restoring that which was lost when man was separated from Eden). The high imagery is further indicated by the measuring of the city: “its length and width and height are equal”—a perfect cube, Rev 21:16b.

Materialists may literalize heaven to a point of absurdity: as though heaven will be the fulfillment of their most covetous and lustful appetites.

We sing, “I want a gold [mansion] that’s silver lined”—forgetting that the street is made of gold. It seems we should realize that Bible descriptions of heaven which emphasize its beauty, its value, the peace and lack of pain that prevails, etc., are relating heaven’s wonders to the human realm. We cannot improve on God’s way of describing heaven, and would be foolish to try it. But there is ample evidence God is telling us that holiness, righteousness, purity, and praise of God find perfection there. This means little to worldly people, but is given its true significance by the genuine child of God.


Paul wrote: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,” Phil 3:20. Philippi was a Roman colony, where citizens were mostly retired soldiers, given full citizenship in the “mother” city Rome. Though far from that city, they dressed Roman, spoke Latin, observed Roman morals, were governed by Roman magistrates, and “remained unshakably and unalterably Roman” (cf. Barclay). Paul was saying the Christian, no matter where he is, must never forget he is a citizen of heaven; and his conduct must match his citizenship. To this kind of people, heaven is “going home.” Oh, what a wonderful thought to those who have practiced heavenly citizenship, longing for the day when they will dwell in God’s presence. “Home to heaven” will be a happy trip for those who, on earth, hunger and thirst after righteousness, Mt 5:6. But what of those who have no such taste? Can we expect them to long for a life totally different from what they now pursue?

The passage in Philippians continues: “[Christ] will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory,” Phil 3:21. In Romans 7 the body, with its fleshly appetites, is seen as a “law” (force) which wars against the inward man or mind desirous of doing God’s will. The conflict results in a “wretched man,” captive to sin in his members, and delivered only by forgiveness through Christ, Rom 7:18ff. The Christian must strive to “put to death the deeds of the body,” 8:13. Paul then promises that though we, “groan and suffer the pains of childbirth... now,” Rom 8:22; we wait for our adoption, to wit, “the redemption of our body,” Rom 8:23. This body, with appetites which war against our desire to serve God, will be changed in heaven—the conflict will be over. How wonderful for those who war against the flesh here! But what of those who “let themselves go,” and revel in appetites of the flesh? Do they long for a body change, with fleshly appetites removed?

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Remember in Prayer

Betty is doing some better! Please continue to pray for **Madelene Britnell**,

Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith. 

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

"I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple,"



—Revelation 21:22

Servants during March:

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

Reading: David

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike Beckman, Larry, Mike Mitchell, Stanley

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

Lawn Mowing (assuming it needs done, week starting): Robert (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

Volume 3

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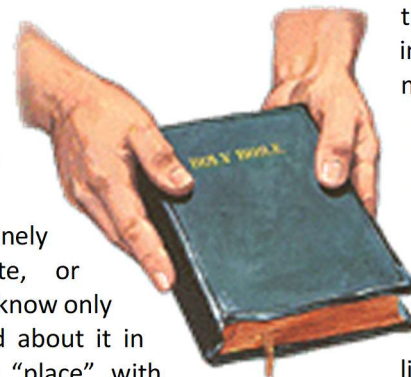
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