

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:

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“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.**”

—Matthew 7:13



Servants during Sept/Oct:

Songleader: Peter (5), Stanley (12), Larry (19), David (26), Peter (10/3)

Reading: David; Mike B (Oct)

Announcements: Larry; Robert (Oct)

Table: Mike B, Robert, Marty, Stanley; David, Peter, Larry, Mike M (Oct)

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (1), Kris (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris (29), Larry (10/6)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Larry (5), Kris (12), Marty (19), Stanley (26), Robert (10/3)

Area Meetings: South Cullman, 9/30-10/3, J.R. Bronger; Isbell, 10/3-5, Mitchell Dalrymple; Fourth Street, 10/10-14, Casey Gray; Belgreen, 10/18-22, Lonell & Larsen Plyler

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Public Opinion vs. Truth

By Al Diestelkamp

One method that is used to change people’s belief is the use of public opinion polls. It’s a clever approach because we as humans—for the most part—like to blend in with the rest of society.

Daily we are confronted with “statistics” which are gathered from polls as to whether something is right or wrong. A colorful bar-graph in the corner of a newspaper may inform us that 55 percent of all Americans believe that one’s “sexual preference” should not be a factor in determining whether they should be accepted into military; a TV network news program, before going to a commercial, may display a graphic showing that a majority of Americans believe the elderly and infirm ought to be able to commit suicide; a talk-show host

may cite the results of a national poll that reveals that most Americans want the public schools to provide their children birth control advice and products. And the list goes on.

We are being fooled if we think this is anything other than an attempt to gradually change people’s beliefs. The frightening part is that it’s working. People are actually swayed by the results of polls. Confronted day after day that I am out of step with society, I am inclined to think that there must be something wrong with my thinking. Gradually, most people come around to thinking like most others in society.

The fact of the matter is that public opinion has absolutely nothing to do with determining truth. Though polls might be of


interest to us, they should not influence our beliefs about right and wrong. A poll taken in Iraq would likely show that most of that nation favors the destruction of America. Does that make it right?

Of course, Christians are aware that our Lord expects us to be different from most of our neighbors. We are warned that we are not to be “conformed to this world,” Rom 12:2. So, it should not affect our convictions when we hear that we are not in the mainstream of our society. Our convictions are based on God’s word, which does not change with the polls.

When told that most people believe one thing, let’s not be ashamed to say that we believe something else—and that we

believe it because our Creator has revealed the truth on the matter, Rom 1:16. We need to remember that the vast majority of those polled are running headlong to destruction, Mt 7:13.

I once saw a sign which declared, “The Lord and I make a majority.” That sounds good on the surface, but in reality, the Lord makes a majority whether I am with Him or not! It is my task to make sure that I am following Him—not “what seems right” which in reality is “the way of death,” Prov 14:12.

One final point: What applies to polls of the general public, also applies to polls among brethren. Truth cannot be determined by finding out what most brethren believe and/or practice. 


witless. Had Jacob been upright he wouldn’t have been worried sick. It’s true, ‘Conscience doth make cowards of us all’. Our mouths go dry, our pulse hammers in our throat just at the thought of our shame being discovered. We imagine people are talking about us, snubbing us, avoiding us. A letter not answered or a phone call not returned torment us with the

thought that our ‘secret’ is known. The pain we endure as a result of our lack of honor so far outweighs any pleasure dishonor brings that it’s a wonder any of us stoops to being treacherous.

The young man tried to talk the young lady into sexual intercourse but she wouldn’t hear tell of it. Then he offered her booze she wouldn’t touch. A little later he wanted to share some marijuana with her but she turned that down, too. By this time he was thoroughly disgusted and sulkily demanded to know what she did for fun. She said:

“I never have to worry about being diseased or pregnant. And that’s fun! That means I don’t have to wrestle with a decision to abort an unwanted baby; and that’s fun. And I don’t have to wonder if I’m being pawed over by someone who might not want to know me a couple of months from now. And that’s fun. I never have any difficulty remembering what I did the night before and who I did it with; and that’s fun too. And I’m looking forward to the day when I

can give myself totally to my husband rather than give a panicky fraction of me in the back seat of some car. And that’s fun. I can hardly wait, but I will. I won’t ever have to worry about getting a blood test that tells me I have AIDS or some other venereal disease; and believe me, that’s fun. My parents love me more than I can say and if I were to get into trouble, of any kind, they’d be right there with me. But I never have to worry about seeing them crushed and shamed by some disgraceful behavior of mine, and believe me, as much as I love them—that’s really fun.”

I’ve taken a beating when I was innocent and I’ve taken a beating when I was guilty and I can tell you, there’s no fun in being beaten when you’ve asked for it. At least when you’re innocent in the matter, you can always go away from the beating with the inner comfort that this time, if the truth were known, you suffered in innocence. And that, even in the midst of pain, is fun! 

What Do You Do For Fun?

By Jim McGuiggan

The Bible tells the story of Jacob. As a younger man he had taken advantage of his twin brother and extorted from him the major share of the family inheritance. A little while later he fooled his aged father, cheated the brother out of further blessing and then fled the country. Now, twenty years later, he must return to face his twin which has him scared

Remember in Prayer

Stanley and Alice’s grandson, Bennet, has RSV; Pam and Buddy continue to wrestle with health issues, as does Betty.

Please continue to pray for brethren here as well: **Madelene Britnell**, **Carolyn Dennis**, and **Tim and Dot Hice**, and **Joyce Smith**. 