

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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“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance,”

—Luke 8:15



The Bible . Examiner

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

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Are You Teachable?

By Larry Rouse

When I first became a Christian I thought that the key to bringing others to obedience to Christ was to have clearly reasoned evidence based on the Word of God. I thought, “If others could just hear the truth taught simply and plainly then they too would want to follow our Lord.” My thoughts were correct as to how one is always to teach. Paul wrote, “...but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God,” 2 Cor 4:2. Teach as you would have others teach you! A man with a good conscience simply wants the truth.

I was naive, however, concerning the hearts of men. I had incorrectly assumed that everyone wanted to know clearly what God

has revealed in His Word and then if convinced they would obey it. Jesus plainly taught us about the condition of men’s hearts and how that condition affects the receiving of God’s Word. In the parable of the sower Jesus showed four kinds of soil that reacted to the seed of God’s Word. These soils represented hearts and of those hearts only one kind produced the fruits that God’s Word intended. “But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance,” Lk 8:15.

Over the years I came to realize that there are many on the rolls of local churches who are not teachable! Just like my experience with the world, I had naively believed that all my brethren needed was a clear “thus says the

Hays Mill church of Christ

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Servants during November:

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

Reading: Mike M

Announcements: Larry

Table: Marty, Stanley, Mike B, Peter

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

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Robert (7), Larry (14), Kris (21), Marty (28)

Area Meetings: **Marcella Falls, TN**, 11/5-7, Lowell Sallee; **New Georgia**, 11/7-10, Drew Edwards; **Helton Drive**, 11/7-11, Steve Patton; **Midway**, 11/14-17, Bill Hall

Lord” to bring them to repentance and to live in harmony with God’s Will. But just as men rejected the gospel because of their hearts, Christians, too, can find themselves on the outside of God’s Will because of a hardened heart.

Where Is Your Heart? We need to know if we truly are receiving the Word of God or if we are as the Pharisees of Jesus’ day, confident and boastful, but having a heart that even Jesus, the Master teacher, could not reach. Remember our Lord’s description of them, “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me,” Mt 15:8. Consider these questions to test your heart:

Are You Willing to Hear? In the explanation of the parable of the sower Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear,” Mt 13:9. Later our Lord made this observation about men: “In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘you will keep on hearing, but will not understand; you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; for the heart of this people has become dull, with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them,’” Mt 13:14,15.

When one is serious about hearing the Bible as God’s Word, he is committing himself to a life of

radical change. Jesus knew that few would have a heart for this: “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God,” Jn 3:19-21. Which of these groups describe you?

Are You Living a Principled Life? When one’s heart is feeding on God’s Word there gradually becomes an order within his life. No longer will he be swayed by emotions or relationships as to how he should act and speak but instead his life is guided by the consistent principles of God’s Word. This was Paul’s goal for every Christian. He wrote, “As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,” Eph 4:14,15.

Are You Approachable? Most people do not want their hearts opened and examined. When God’s Word is preached they will say: “It’s none of your business” or “that’s just your opinion.” When one is


truly committed to learning they will engage the one whom they disagree with. One of the most able, capable men in the New Testament, Apollos, was taught by a humble Christian couple. This simple account is given by Luke: “...and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately,” Acts 18:26.

What is Really First in Your Life? Jesus commonly dealt with religious leaders who, while having a great knowledge of the Scriptures, in fact had very little concern with actually following them. Why was it not possible that they understand that Jesus was the Son of God? Jesus confronted these men by saying, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life,” Jn 5:39,40.

These men were unteachable!

Jesus knew the reason why: “I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?” Jn 5:41-44. Most men care what others think rather than what God thinks. Where do you stand?

The Men Whom God Can Help:

Our Savior wants to help and to heal all men. He will not help anyone, however, who is not willing to learn. Are you weak, burdened and struggling? If so, then there is something you need to learn: “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light,” Mt 11:29,30. Are you ready to learn? 

Remember in Prayer

Robert is doing some better after a change in medication; **Buddy** continues to struggle with health issues, as does **Pam** with pain in her feet. **Stanley** had eye surgery Wednesday; and **Cindy Vilander’s**

mother is doing well after surgery this past Friday, 11/5.

Please continue to remember **Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis,** and **Tim and Dot Hice,** and **Joyce Smith.** 