### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

### Preacher / bulletin editor:

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

E-mail: kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org Website: www.havsmillchurchofchrist.org

also reap," — Galatians 6:7

"Do not be deceived.

God is not mocked;

for whatever a man

sows, this he will

#### Servants during July:

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

**Reading:** Robert

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Marty, David, Peter, Mike B

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (6),

Stanley (13), Kris (20), Larry (27)

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

(31)**Area Meetings:** 

Phil Campbell (17-20);

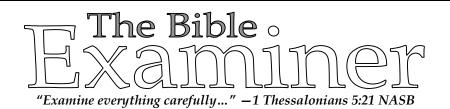
Belgreen (17-22);

Parkway (24-29); Jennings Chapel (24-29);

**Piney Grove** (7/31-8/3)

## **Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road Elkmont, AL 35620



Volume 5

July 17, 2022

Number 9

# Beneficial Versus Harmful "Deconstruction": Five Differences

By Gardner Hall

"Deconstruction" is a big issue in the Evangelical world as millions leave the religion of their parents to become unbelievers or at least to take on a radically different form of faith. A beneficial form of "deconstruction" is inherent in the concept of restoration. Jesus wanted the Pharisees to "deconstruct" their false system of faith and replace it with His true system, Mt 23:23. Hezekiah and Josiah wanted Judah to deconstruct their idolatry to follow Yahweh, 2 Chron 29, 30, 34, 35. However, many types of "deconstruction" are obviously harmful. What is the difference between the beneficial and the harmful?

The beneficial comes from a careful study of God's word. The harmful comes from ingesting heavy

doses of worldly wisdom and faddish worldly philosophy.

The beneficial is motivated by a deep and sacrificial love of God. The harmful is motivated by rebellion or resentment against those who are perceived to be "too strict" or traditional.

The beneficial is careful to retain whatever truth may have been in the "old religion." The harmful has a "throw-out-the-baby-with-the-

bathwater" mentality. An example—a sincere young person may discard the sarcastic, belittling style that some brethren have in dealing with those with homosexual tendencies, even as accepts the fact that homosexuality is sinful. A harmful "deconstructionist" will try to find a way to justify homosexuality in spite of the scriptures.

The beneficial "deconstructionist" is careful to avoid the carnality that increasingly dominates the world. The harmful almost always rationalizes carnal practice and often makes fun of those who are careful in their dress and entertainment choices.

Beneficial deconstruction brings one closer to God. God's word still reigns supreme. Although the harmful deconstructionist may claim loudly to feel closer to God, the truth of the matter is that he is increasingly distant from Biblical principles. Feelings triumph over the Word.

Sometimes traditional brethren criticize those who are beneficially "deconstructing" harmful human traditions to "reconstruct" themselves closer to God's pattern. However, beneficial deconstructionists aren't the enemy. We need to be careful to distinguish between them and those who are harmful.

## God is Not...

By David Eldridge

Man has a number of ideas about who God is. Yet, the truth is that God is not what many think Him to be. Consider some things the Bible teaches that God is not. God is not...

A Respecter of Persons: Peter declared, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons," Acts 10:34 KJV. That God is not a respecter of persons means that He does not show partiality. Many other passages bear out this idea. Paul taught, "For there is no partiality with God," Rom 2:11. Because God shows no partiality, He offers salvation to all regardless of their skin color, education, social standing, financial state, geographical area, or the family into which they were born. Furthermore, He demands the same

thing from all men no matter who they are. As Peter said, "In every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him," Acts 10:35. God is not a respecter of persons!

A Man: God is not human like you and me. Numbers 23:19 declares, "God is not a man..." Instead of being a man like you and me, "God is Spirit," In 4:24. Because God is not a man, he does not lie or go back on His word. "And also, the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent," 1 Sam 15:29; cf. Num 23:19. Additionally, God does not think like you and me—"'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher

than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts," Isa 55:8,9. God is not a man!

Mocked: Rhetorically, Job asked, "Can you mock Him as one mocks a man?" Job 13:9. To mock is to sneer at, deride, or turn up your nose at. You may mock man, but you will not mock God. Why? Because God has assured that before Him you will reap what you sow. Thus, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked," Gal 6:7-9. God is not mocked!

Tempted with Evil: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone," Jas 1:13. Moses declared that God "is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He," Deut 32:4. God's nature is such that temptation does not affect Him—He is incapable of being tempted to do wrong. As such, He does no wrong, nor does He encourage wrongdoing in others. God is not tempted with evil!

One to Forget: Man may see or say something today and forget it tomorrow. But, "God is not unjust to

forget..." Heb 6:10. When folks begin to think that perhaps God will forget, it causes them to do one of two things. They may think they can act against His will and God will forget their sin. He will not—"...all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account," Heb 4:13. Others may think God will forget the good they do in service to Him. He will not, not even down to the simple good deed of giving of "only a cup of cold water," Mt 10:42. "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name..." Heb 6:10. God is not one to forget!

Ashamed to be Called Our God: I can scarcely read Hebrews 11:16 without tears coming to my eyes. Speaking of the faithful of old, it is written, "But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them," Heb 11:16. It is an amazing thought that if we, like they, desire heaven and live in obedient faith, the great God of heaven and earth is also not ashamed to be called our God. Have you been living your life this way? If not, you need to begin today! God is not ashamed to be called our God!

## » Remember in Prayer »

Please continue to pray for Alice's sister, Ann Strange, and Stanley's sister-in-law, Pam McNatt; also the Beddingfield's and Emerson's, and all

those with chronic health issues, including Carolyn Dennis, Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith.