

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

Speaker, Kris Vilander

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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"...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God,"

— 2 Corinthians 4:4

**Servants during January:**

Songleader: Larry (1), Peter (8), Stanley (15), Larry (22), Peter (29)

Reading: Mike M**Announcements:** Larry**Table:** Stanley, Marty, Mike B, Peter**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (4),

Larry (11), Stanley (18), Kris (25)

Meetings: South Cullman, Jan

13-15, 3pm, Reagan McClenny

Hays Mill church of Christ

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Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

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Satan and Détente

by Kevan O'Banion

Madelyn Murray O'Hare, in a speech delivered on the campus of Southwest Texas State University, ridicules the "Christian's belief in the existence of this being called Satan." Many today scoff at the idea of a spiritual conflict being fought over the souls of men — and it is not uncommon to hear the "more educated" of our country refer to Satan and this great battle as Hebrew mythology. It seems the "god of this world" has been highly successful in "blinding the minds of the unbelieving," 2 Cor 4:4.

But these are conclusions drawn by those who refuse to acknowledge a moral force greater than man. The unbeliever sees evil and human suffering as "proof" that there is no omniscient, omnipotent and benevolent God; and consequently, no spiritual realm of any sort, whether good or evil. The Christian views the same as evidence that a great battle is being waged — sin, suffering and spiritual death being the consequences of that battle.

As people of God, we should be able to recognize the scores of casualties in this conflict: the drunkard, the drug addict, the unwed mother, the disillusioned and the atheist. Not only should we see the conflict in our surroundings, but we should accept the divine explanation for it—"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour," 1 Pet 5:8. Our own observations coupled with Biblical warnings should serve as constant reminders of our susceptibility to Satan's power and influence.


Yet, even with these advantages many Christians have drifted into spiritual complacency. Some forge battles they once fought, and practices which were abhorred are "not really that bad—after all." We can see fellow soldiers who, at one time stood uncompromisingly for the truth—but now one "small" defeat after another leads them further and further away from God. Still others have been deluded into thinking their "front line"

days are over and they can now sit back and allow others to continue the fight.

It is time to wake up! "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in this world is for enough good men to do nothing," Edmund Burke. One of the greatest aids to the cause of Satan is the self-delusion that "there is no battle, or at least, reason for me to become involved in the conflict!" Satan has deceived many into thinking "'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace," Jer 6:14.

His forces of evil are at work to lull us to sleep and subtly leads us into spiritual destruction. Remember... he is

called "Apollyon and Abaddon" (death and destroyer), "the tempter, "a murderer from the beginning" and "the deceiver of the whole world," Rev 9:11; 12:9; 1 Thess 3:5; Jn 8:44. Also, John records Satan as declaring war on those "who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus," Rev 12:17. There is a Satan; there is a great battle being waged over the souls of men. If we are not actively engaging ourselves in this conflict, WE ARE BEING DEFEATED!

--via Plain Talk, May, 1980 

Fashioning a Personal God

by Steve Harbin

Over the past several years, there has been much controversy over whether the earth's climate is growing warmer due to the impact man has had on the environment. One of the more public controversies came to light in 2009 when a group of leading climate researchers was discovered to have manipulated measurement information because it did not support their preconceived theories on global warming. In effect, they were caught "hiding the decline" in global temperatures over a recent period of time. To support their theories, global temperatures should show an increase. Instead, the data showed a decline which they altered to falsely show an increase. This intellectual dishonesty has caused a lot of confusion, division, skepticism and disrespect among the scientific community and the public in general regarding global warming.

Similarly, we oftentimes hear of people that ignore the facts of God's word and attempt to manipulate God's will to conform to their preconceived ideas. We may hear phrases such as "My God wants me to be happy" or "My God wants this or that". We should ask if these statements are true or if they are fashioning a "god" to conform to a preconceived idea of what the person wants God to be.

Generally, these phrases are used to justify one's actions which may not be at all congruent with God's will. Our will and God's will are often very different. Isaiah 55:8 states: "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD." I am not aware of any scripture that would support the idea that God will tolerate sin if it makes somebody happy. To the contrary, most of the bible describes God's total intolerance

of sin of any kind. The story of Jesus is that those who would repent of sin and obey God may be forgiven and brought back into a relationship with God.

As previously mentioned, those who state phrases similar to "My God wants..." seem to be fashioning a personal god to conform to their desires. More often than not, these phrases are used to justify something that the speaker wants to do but may have no basis in His revealed word. We all need to be very careful not to ascribe our desires to God without a sound basis to do so. To do otherwise is similar to what the Gentiles were reported to have done in Rom 1:25 "...who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."


What are some tips to help ensure that we are not conforming God to our will, but rather we are conforming to His will?

1. Examine ourselves and test ourselves as 2 Cor 13 exhorts. Ensure that we are speaking the truth as revealed in God's word whenever we make conclusions regarding God's will for us or representing God's will for others.

2. Study so that we can "accurately handle" the word of truth as in 2 Tim 2:15. "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work," 2 Tim 3:16,17.

3. Purpose to serve God rather than man, even when serving man means serving our own will. "But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men,'" Acts 5:29.

4. Beware of those who want you to believe that they have knowledge of what God wants or His will for you. We can only know what He has revealed through His word. Whenever I hear "God wants you to..." my radar immediately goes off. We should verify that such statements are true based on His revealed word. Strive to be like the Bereans: "Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so," Acts 17:11.

Let's all be extremely careful not to ascribe our personal desires as God's will. To do otherwise will create confusion, division, skepticism and disrespect for God. 

Remember in Prayer

Joyce continues to wrestle with her cancer. **Hazel's son-in-law, Shane Reed**, is still dealing with Leukemia. The **Beddingfield's** and the **Emerson's** are both continue to struggle with various health issues. **Carolyn** is undergoing

some serious difficulties as well, and has asked for prayer. **John Pollard's mother** is undergoing tests for an enlarged heart. Please continue to pray for **Dot Hice**, also. 