

**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 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.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“...But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

— John 1:12



**Servants during February:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (5), Larry (12), Peter (19), Stanley (26)

**Reading:** Mike B

**Announcements:** Stanley

**Table:** Peter, Larry, Mike M, Marty

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (1), Stanley (8), Kris (15), Larry (22)

**Meetings:** Jones Road, Feb 5-10, Bill Hall, Eastside, Feb 10-12, Wiley Deason, Gooch Lane (Madison), Feb 10-12, Mark Broyles, Fourth Street, Feb 10-12, David Banning

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

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

Volume 5

February 5, 2023

Number 37

# Will The Real Legalist Please Stand Up!

by David Diestelkamp

It is a familiar, oft repeated scenario: Someone suggests that something is wrong because it is unwise or unauthorized or within the silence of God, and immediately a charge is leveled that the person is being a bigoted, judgmental, legalist—binding where God has not bound. I think something important is missing in this line of thinking.

A lot has already been said by others about not binding the ideas and traditions of men. It’s a needed, but not new, warning, Mt 15:9. A lot has already been said by others about our need to obey the revealed will of God in

all aspects. It’s also a needed, but not new, warning, 2 Thess 1:8.


One of the greatest struggles in balancing these two not mutually exclusive Biblical concepts is in the area of silence or uncertainty. Some silence or uncertainty may be due to an individual’s ignorance of the Scriptures. He or she just hasn’t found it in the text or understood it yet. In some cases, Scripture gives us some information but not enough to know something for certain or reach a reasonable conclusion. And there are times when there simply isn’t anything in Scripture about a subject. So, when we aren’t sure from

Scripture (due to silence, vagueness, or ignorance), what must we do?

Begin by remembering that silence isn't always silence. We rarely have what I'll call "silent silence" in Scripture. For example, crack cocaine isn't mentioned at all in the Bible, but the Bible isn't silent on self-control and sober mindedness, principles which recreational use of crack threatens and violates. We are often told that the Bible is silent concerning church buildings, however the New Testament's information concerning church assemblies necessarily implies a place—meaning that there isn't "silent silence" concerning church buildings (places for assembling). Other examples can be given, but I think you see the point. "Silent silence" only occurs in Scripture when there is no authority for or information about a matter from which we can make applications, draw conclusions, learn wisdom, etc.

Of course, sometimes "silent silence" does exist in Scripture. Moses' provided some age-lasting advice for such situations

in Numbers 9:8. Moses was asked what those should do who were prevented from keeping the Passover. Lacking revelation on this, Moses replied, "Stand still, that I may hear what the Lord will command concerning you." Is not this the response throughout Scripture concerning "silent silence"? Is not this the very purpose of Scripture?

Now look at this a different way. What is someone really saying when they insist on an answer for, "Where does it say it is wrong?" or "Where does it say not to?" or "Where is it totally forbidden?" Are they not saying they will only accept something as wrong if a law specifically says it is wrong? Must there be a legal system to spell out everything not to do? Must there be a specific commandment forbidding a thing before it should be avoided? These people demand laws, legal systems, and commandments. "I will only be controlled or stopped by laws, legal systems, and commandments." Who is the real "legalist" when it comes to God's silence? 


# A Few Words about Our Thrill-Seeking Culture

by Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

In the recent years, we have developed a thrill-seeking culture—a culture moved more by emotional stimuli than careful thought—that affects many facets of our lives. I have not been to a movie in years, but I have seen trailers on TV and digital video, and heard people talk about them. I have noticed many come away more enamored with the thrilling "special effects" while having only a sketchy memory of the plot or story behind the effects. At musical concerts, for the most part, the primary attention is given to special effects to create an emotional atmosphere than to thoughtful lyrics that convey real messages.

I fear this culture is affecting public worship. People are "going to church"—not to be challenged to think on spiritual things—but to be thrilled by the "special effects" generated by preachers and "worship leaders." Rather than songs, clearly worded and sung to praise God and to teach each other—words primarily appealing to

the head rather than to the arms and feet—the order of the day is for "special effects" designed to give worshipers an emotional high. Sermons must be jazzed up with verbal and electronic special effects so that the audience can be thrilled rather than informed or convicted in their minds. I am not speaking of the use of visual aids, computer generated or otherwise. Visual aids are great tools when they truly "aid" the listener's understanding, but when used for emotional, thrill and awe value, they are questionable to say the least. I saw a video a while back of a congregation partaking of the Lord's Supper while an electronically produced large cross was "floating" around the auditorium. A little too much—methinks.

As I read the New Testament I get the idea public worship is to be done from the heart in a solemn manner, glorifying God and seriously reflecting on the words uttered in the songs, prayers and discourses. 

## Remember in Prayer

**Robert** is in rehab across from ALH in room 93. **John and Sylvia Pollard's newborn, Paige**, is still in ICU at Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, with seizures and respiratory distress; there

appear to be congenital neurological concerns. **John's mother, Sharon**, is also being treated for heart failure. Please pray for the **Beddingfields, Carolyn Dennis** and **Dot Hice**, also. 