

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
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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“...So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free,’”



—John 8:31,32

Servants during October:

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

Reading: Mike M

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Mike M, Marty, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (4), Larry (11), Stanley (18), Kris (25)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (1), Marty (8), Stanley (15), Larry (22), Kris (29)

Area Meetings: O’Neal, Lowell Sallee, 10/1-4

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

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

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Buy the Truth and Sell It Not

by Bob Waldron

One of the most important attitudes one can have in striving to go to heaven is that of intense zeal for the truth of God. Too often, people settle on something far less than the truth. Remember, a counterfeit, though it may look relatively genuine, is nevertheless worthless. Likewise, we cannot enjoy the benefits of truth just by getting pretty close. We must take our position firmly and foursquare on the truth. “[Y]ou will know the truth, and the truth will make you free,” Jn 8:32.

There are many among us who, like Pilate, would ask, “What is truth?” Jn 18:38. Many do not believe in absolute truth. The Bible, however, is absolute, unchanging truth. “Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven,” Psa 119:89. The belief that there is absolute truth is fundamental to one who desires to “buy the truth and sell it not,” Prov 23:23, KJV.

One Can Be Wrong

It is a fact that anyone can mistakenly be wrong. Paul, when speaking of his past manner of life, before his conversion, said, “I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day,” Acts 23:1. Yet he was before “a

blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor,” 1 Tim 1:13. How could he have lived in all good conscience when he had been so wrong? The answer is simple. He thought he was right. “There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death,” Prov 16:25. The fact that we can be wrong means that it does not behoove us to close our minds to further investigation. Jeremiah said, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you will find rest for your souls,” Jer 6:16.

Faith vs. Opinion

Naturally, study brings us to certain conclusions. All of us live by certain principles. But upon what do our conclusions rest? All too often they rest upon mere opinion. Realize that if something is a matter of faith, then God must have said something about it. We cannot know the words of eternal life by opinions. One man’s opinion is just as good as another man’s; but no man’s opinion is worthy to be compared to God’s.

You would not want to risk crossing

the ice over a river merely because somebody thinks you can. Neither should we risk trying to go to heaven by the opinions of men. The difference between an opinion and conviction is that an opinion is usually a spur-of-the-moment conclusion someone comes up with based upon skimpy premises, if any. A conviction is a conclusion based upon evidence which has been thoroughly studied and meditated upon. God has given us a wonderful book. It furnishes man with teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness, that he may be adequate, equipped for every good work, 2 Tim 3:16,17.

The Bible is our evidence. It is the truth. When believed, it becomes subjective faith. The Bible did not come from men, so there need be no question about its reliability. It was given unto men though, and designed so they could understand it when they read it, Eph 3:3-5. This is not to say that all the Bible is simple to understand. There are difficult portions of it that demand much study. The matters of conversion to God and everyday living are simple and easy to understand. What many find difficult about such matters is the application of that which may be so simple to understand.

Feelings—A Poor Standard

Do not base your conviction upon some peculiar feeling you might have.

Feelings are a poor standard of truth. We have already mentioned Paul. We might mention Jacob also who believed with all his heart that his son Joseph was dead, but that did not make it true. Remember, God has given us revelation, facts. Our convictions must rest upon these facts or else we will find ourselves upon shifting sand.

Conscience—Not a Reliable Guide

Neither is conscience a reliable guide in determining whether your convictions are sound or not. The conscience is very pliable to begin with. Our conscience is usually formed at a tender age. At that time it may be trained to approve good or evil. When we reach maturity our conscience alters and becomes almost unchangeable. From then on it tells us only whether we have done as we learned to do or not.

Changing the conscience then is a slow, difficult project. If your conscience were trained correctly, well and good. If it were trained incorrectly, then it will approve even when you do things that are really wrong, because it was taught that which was wrong. "Let your conscience be your guide" is therefore poor advice.

This brings us back again to the fact that we must ultimately make our stand upon the word of God. Everything is to be judged by it.

—via **Bible Study**, Hanceville, AL 

consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of

the upward call of God in Christ Jesus," Phil 3:12-14, ESV.

This article is not about exposing sin, demanding you renounce some wickedness, quit lying or stealing. While those guilty of these misbehaviors need to repent and be forgiven, this kind of thing is not the subject of this article. This article is about pressing on and straining forward to start doing good things better.


Can you pray better? Not just longer prayers, though that might be part of the progress you need to make. Consider giving more thought in framing your prayers, or expanding who and what you pray for. Initiate petitions that honor Christ, praise God, and advance the proclamation of the gospel. But also, pray for people you don't agree with and don't like. You've been engaged in prayer for many years. Now find ways to do that better. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Can your prayers become more effective and fervent?

Can your attendance be improved? Can you give up some of the weak excuses, gain better control of your schedule, re-think your priorities and improve your attendance? By attending every service you enjoy the advantages of edification and the encouragement you lend to others and receive from them.

Christians in the early church were together and that unity was critical to their survival and their capacity to share the gospel with others. "All who believed were together," Acts 2:44.

Can you reach out to people in a better way? Are there people you know who need you to move closer to them, get to know them and help them? For most of us, I believe, there are people we are acquainted with who need something we can give. But we have not taken the time. We have been too busy with so many of "our things." I speak not of money primarily, but of encouragement, listening, praying with, studying with and befriending.


Can you help someone begin reading the Bible? Make a list of five people you know. Are all five of those people reading the Bible? Pick out one and ask if they read the Bible daily? If not, offer to show them and help them get started. Periodically review or re-make your list. There is no better endeavor you can invite someone to begin. All many people need is a little encouragement.

Again, this article was not written to the idolater, the liars or false teachers. Rather, to Christians who are doing good things already. I believe we can do these things better. Let's press on toward the goal. 

Remember in Prayer

Mike's procedure on his liver was successful, and had caused him substantial discomfort; he is better, but extremely tired.

Please continue to pray for him and his family (**Deborah**, and **Serenity**); as well as **Betty**; **Carolyn**; **Dot**; **John**, **Sylvia**, and **Paige Pollard**; **Joyce**; **Pam** and **Julie**.

James was speaking of both spiritual and physical healing when he wrote, "...[C]onfess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. **The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much,**" Jas 5:16 

Doing Good Things Better

by Warren E. Berkley

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not