

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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“But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does,”

—James 1:25



Servants during November:

Songleader: Stanley (5), Larry (12),
Dwight (19), Stanley (26)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike M, Larry, Marty,
Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (1), Larry (8),
Kris (15), Larry (22), Stanley (29)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Marty (5),
Stanley (12), Larry (19), Kris (26)

Area Meetings: Needmore (Haleyville),
Gary Carter, Sr., 11/12-14; **Midway,** Alan
Yeater, 11/12-15

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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A Call for Sincerity

by Dee Bowman

In our age of intense and concentrated advertising efforts, the finding of an open mind is indeed a rare thing. All of us are so bombarded with ideas from others that even from our earliest years we form prejudices which affect our lives from then on. Customs, traditions, backgrounds of various sorts influence the most insignificant decisions.

The only solution to the problem of prejudice is a serious effort by every individual to obtain and maintain an attitude of sincerity. A sincere person is, first of all, a truth-seeking person. His quest in every situation and circumstance is for the truth. A person who is determined to base all his decisions on the truth has laid out for himself a most difficult course, for truth is not always easily accessible. However, prompted by a sincere desire to be right, he will not be deterred.

The sincere person is looking for **ALL** the truth. Half-truths have ever been the major cause for man's demise. If the powers of evil can cause a person

to subscribe to only part of the truth, the end is the same ruination as if he had subscribed to no truth at all! Such has been the problem of Protestant denominationalism from the very beginning. It is based on part, but not all of the truth.

“Getting to the bottom of a thing” is characteristic of him who sincerely seeks truth and that means he must engage in a sincere effort to find **ALL** the truth. Any person who seeks to excel in any area will solicit as much information as he can about that area. And the sincere person is interested in knowing as much as possible about a situation before rendering any decision about that matter.

The sincere person applies the truth. The truth known, while it may thrill the intelligence of him who procures it, is not really valuable until it is applied. The person who knows a truth and does not apply it is only slightly better off than the person who does not know that truth at all! The Scriptures compare that person who

fails to apply truth to a foolish man who views his physical imperfections in a mirror and walks away unconcerned about what he has seen (cf Jas 1:23-25). On the other hand, the person who applies the truth as he sees necessary “shall be blessed in his deed.”

Furthermore, the sincere person applies the truth without regard to consequences. Faith in God requires that we put our complete confidence in Him. That is, when lie says a situation calls for a certain application of truth, we obey without consideration of any circumstances and with full confidence

in Him. The sincere person is fully persuaded that God’s way is the right way and that He would not require of man that which did not benefit him.

A sincere person is respectful of the opinions of others. He has such a high regard for truth that he will not be guilty of forcing what he knows is opinion. Conversely, he has enough knowledge of truth to not allow you to force your opinions on him either! The sincere person is totally honest with the truth.

—via *Plain Talk*, Dec 1977 

Guard Your Heart

by *Patrick Gaughan*

I recently read a book by Malcolm Gladwell. Gladwell loves exploring unexpected aspects of human nature and human behavior. In this particular book, he describes an interesting psychological experiment that caught my attention.

In the experiment students were given a list of little word puzzles. For example, they were asked to find the word that does not fit in this jumbled up sentence: water politely am asked Mary for.

Looking at the sentence, the word am seems to be the one that does not fit. Each student was given a sheet of a few dozen such puzzles. The student (the subject) was instructed to work the puzzles on the sheet, then go to the graduate student sitting at a desk at the end of the hall to get the next assignment.

The twist, as all good psychology experiments must have, was that

invariably when the subject went to get the next assignment, the graduate student was already engrossed in conversation with another student. The real experiment was this: How long would the subject wait before interrupting this conversation to get the next assignment?

Surprisingly, the answer to that question depended heavily on what words were on the sheet the student had just completed! On some sheets, the word puzzles were sprinkled with words like “aggressively,” “rude,” “bold,” “infringe,” “intrude,” and “bother.” Students who worked these sheets interrupted the conversation after just a few minutes. Other sheets contained words like “respect,” “considerate,” “appreciate,” “patiently,” “yield,” “polite,” and “courteous.” The vast majority (82%) of students who worked the second test did not interrupt at all

(there was a ten minute time-limit imposed on the experiment).

What is the point? The results of this experiment tell us that what you see on a sheet of paper—the words you read in passing, can affect your attitude and behavior. The word puzzles were written so that it was not obvious what was going on. Many of the puzzles on the page did not have any of the key words in them. The students had no idea they were being “primed” to be rude or polite. Yet, their subsequent behavior shows that the subtle message of those words had an impact.

I am not a huge fan of psychological experiments, but the important point is that the results of this experiment agree with scripture. We are warned to be diligent guardians of our hearts.


- ❖ “Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the issues of life,” *Proverbs 4:23*.
- ❖ “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word,” *Psalms 119:9*.
- ❖ “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you,” *Psalms 119:11*.
- ❖ “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good

*report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things,” *Philippians 4:8*.*

- ❖ “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God,” *Romans 12:2*.

There is an ongoing battle over the hearts of men. We need to be very aware of the influences surrounding us, both overt and subtle. When challenged about the choice to watch a violent or R-rated movie, I have heard Christians reply, “It’s ok. It doesn’t bother me.” When asked about their worldly choices in music, I have heard Christians reply, “I can handle it.” When asked about spending so much time with their worldly friends, I have heard the reply, “I’ll influence them, not vice versa.” Can we be so sure?

When a dozen well-chosen words on a page, quickly read, can make the difference between politeness and rudeness, what will filling our ears, eyes, and thoughts with worldly words, images, and opinions do? What will filling our hearts and minds with what is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and virtuous do?

Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it flow the issues of life. 

Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for **Dot’s family**, following her death. **Pam** will undergo tests for symptoms of gallbladder issues; **Betty** has a couple of breaks in her pelvis not requiring surgery, but must remain off her feet for another 4-6 weeks; **Shirley** is suffering from a

serious cough (not Covid-19); **Mike** had another procedure done on his liver last week, and is to have heart tests sometime thereafter. Please pray for these and their families, as well as **Carolyn**; **John**, **Sylvia**, and **Paige Pollard**; and **Joyce**. 