

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

Speaker, Robert Emerson

Study Sunday 10:00 AM

Worship Sunday 11:00 AM

Worship Sunday 5:00 PM

Singing every 2nd Sunday evening

Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor: Kris Vilander**Phone:** (256) 472-1065; (256) 472-1042**E-mail:** kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org**Website:** www.haysmillchurchofchrist.orgCome study
with us!**Servants during December:****Songleader:** Larry (2); David (9), Chandler

(16), Dwight (23), Stanley (30), Larry (1/6)

Reading: David, Robert (Jan)**Announcements:** Robert, Larry (Jan)**Communion:** Larry, Chandler, Mike, Lakin;

Chandler, David, Stanley, Marty (Jan)

Wednesday Lesson: Mike (5), Larry (12),

Stanley (19), Mike (26), Kris (1/2)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

On winter vacation...

Singing: The Vilander's(Monday the 31st)**Area Meetings:**

The Bible . Examiner

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

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How to Tell What the Lord Requires, Part 1

By Keith Sharp

The New Testament is a binding pattern of authority (2 Tim 1:13). Yet, those who deny this fact are quick to point out that Christians generally do not deem it necessary to follow many New Testament examples. For example, every time the Scriptures record where the Lord's Supper was observed, it was in an upper room (cf. Lk 22:7-20; Acts 20:7-8). Yet virtually no one believes it is necessary to meet in an upper room for the purpose of observing the Lord's Supper.

But the same possible confusion we face relative to the authority of approved examples applies to declarations and implications. The apostle Paul commanded Timothy to bring his cloak, books and parchments (2 Tim 4:13). Must we obey this apostolic command? It is necessarily implied that the apostle Peter was a married man (Mt 8:14). Must a preacher of the gospel be married (as some brethren seem to think)?

It will not do to simply say, "We've always recognized these passages are

not binding," for that is simply following human tradition (Mt 15:1-9). Nor will it do to throw the baby out with the bath water and simply deny we must follow the New Testament as a binding pattern, for the Scriptures plainly teach we must follow apostolic doctrine and not deviate from it (2 Jn 9). We must find inspired teaching that will lead us to determine accurately what in a passage is binding and what is not.

This leads us to the question this lesson will answer. How can we tell what details of a passage are authoritatively binding and must be followed and which are not?

The General Approach

The Scriptures demand that we follow declarations, approved examples, and implications (Phil 4:9). Thus, our approach must be that all New Testament declarations (commands and statements), examples, and implications are binding unless we can prove otherwise. When in doubt, follow the inspired information as authoritative.

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General Rules

There are important, universally recognized rules of Bible study, rules which actually apply to the understanding of all language and which we use to determine the meaning of a passage, which we must also employ to determine what in a passage is authoritatively binding. These rules can be posed in the form of questions the answers to which determine both the meaning and authority of specific details.

We should ask, “**Who is the speaker?**” For example, Acts 26:28,29 records two statements, one we must follow and one we must not follow. King Agrippa said he was almost persuaded to be a Christian. He was an impenitent sinner, and it would be sinful to adopt his statement as a guide. Paul, an inspired apostle, replied that he wished all who heard him were as he is except for his chains. Paul was an inspired apostle, and we must be Christians as he was.

We should ask, “**To whom is the passage addressed?**” 1 Cor 14:27 is a rule for those who exercised the miraculous gift of tongue speaking in the public worship assembly, and, since miraculous spiritual gifts have ceased (1 Cor 13:8-13), the specific injunction does not apply today.

We should inquire, “**What is the subject?**” 1 Cor 3:16-17 is often misapplied by brethren to teach we should not harm our physical bodies, whereas the context (vss 5-15) indicates the apostle is forbidding harming the church by following human wisdom.

We should ask, “**Is the language literal or figurative?**” Brethren who bind the use of just one drinking vessel for the Lord’s Supper should realize we cannot literally divide a drinking vessel (Lk 22:17) and that Jesus, by metonymy, was referring to the contents, the fruit of the vine, not the container.

We should also ask, “**Why is this said (or done, or implied)?**” In Jn 13:1-15 Jesus washed His disciple’s feet and then taught, “I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you” (v15). He was not teaching them a ritual to employ in the worship assembly. He was teaching them to humbly serve each other, and this principle of humble service to one another is the authoritatively binding principle.


God willing... having asked these questions, in the conclusion of this article we'll consider five rules of interpretation that will help us determine where we have liberty, and where we do not.

—via **TeachUsLord.com**, August 15, 2004, Vol.3, No.16. 

Remember in Prayer

Polly McNatt is still very unwell; and Shane’s dad, Mickey Bates, is in the hospital with heart issues. Also, Billy is still having troubles with shingles, and Pam with a serious ear infection. Please pray for all of these... However, Dwight’s brother,

Kenny Paul, is doing some better; and we thank God for that!

Please don’t forget Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Hazel Teeple as you pray... 

The Age of Accountability

By Morris D. Norman

It has long been a question as to what age our young people ought to become Christians. Should it be as they enter their teens and begin at that early age in their service to Christ, or should they wait until they know a little more and can be more dependable, say their late teens or even early twenties? It would take a wise man to give a precise answer. Perhaps some biblical pictures would help us along this line.

Joseph was about 17 when he was torn from home ties and taken into Egypt as a slave. Was he accountable to God at this age? He thought so. When tempted by Potiphar’s wife he said he could not do this wickedness and sin against Jehovah. It is true that this temptation came after he had been in Egypt long enough to have advanced in Potiphar’s house, but in these years, “the Lord was with him,” Gen 39:3. By the time he left home his patterns of righteousness were set. With proper training young people are accountable at age 17 to serve God properly.

Josiah was 8 years old when he became king of Judah. At the age of 16 “While he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father” (2 Chron 34:3). Then, by the time he was twenty he began to rid the land of idol worship. By the age of 26, he was repairing the house of God that had been in disrepair. Of him, from age 8 it was said, “And he did that which

was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left” (2 Chron 34:2).

Jesus went up to Jerusalem with His parents for the first time at the age of 12. He was lost from His parents for three days. When they found Him He was in the temple conversing with the doctors. All who heard were astonished at His understanding and answers. When asked concerning His whereabouts while lost He said, “Know ye not that I must be about My Father’s business?” (Lk 2:49). From then on He advanced in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man. But some would say that Jesus was divine. True! But he was also human, and we are to exemplify what He did in the flesh. If we are to be as He was when He was older, why not when He was younger?

Sometimes we sell our young people short by not expecting of them what they are capable of. And sometimes they use this as an excuse.

*It is said that in earlier times, children matured at an earlier age. If that’s the case, who is at fault: society? Eph 6:4 “**Fathers**, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,” (cf Deut 6:4-7). We can’t change yesterday, but we can **be bold today!***

—via **Gospel Power**, Vol. 15, No. 42, Oct. 19, 2008. 