

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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“You study the scriptures thoroughly because you think in them you possess eternal life, and it is these same scriptures that testify about me, but you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life,”

—John 5:39,40 NET

**Servants during August:**

Songleader: Larry (3), Dwight (10), Stanley (17), Larry (24), Dwight (31)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike, Larry, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (6), Larry (13), Stanley (20), Kris (27)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (3), Marty (10), Stanley (17), Larry (24), Kris (31)

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

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

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Learning the Truth

By Steve Klein

I have had the opportunity on several occasions to attend or read religious debates. In every such debate, at least one of the disputants has been in error. Sometimes, they both have been. Yet, I know for a fact that the debaters often spend hundreds of hours studying what the Bible has to say concerning the subject at hand. Whether the topic was instrumental music in worship, the necessity of baptism, the mode of baptism, church support of institutions, miraculous spiritual gifts or Christians taking oaths, I have always been impressed with the tremendous amount of Bible study, thought and preparation done by each participant. Their laborious effort shows. Personally, I have never heard a debate in which I didn't learn many new facts, some of them from the person who was defending error. One can have a lot of facts and still not have the truth!

The same holds true for preachers and Bible class teachers. Many spend a great deal of time studying and preparing, and are capable of presenting a lot of true and valuable information. Yet, many are in error on certain points. Is it because they don't study enough? Maybe, in some cases. But maybe there is more to understanding God's truth than just studying. Maybe there is more to learning the truth than just learning the facts.

How do we come to know the truth of God's word? Is it through study? Yes. But something more than study is necessary.

Study must be coupled with the will to know the truth, and not with a desire to reinforce our opinions or defend our positions. In John 5:39,40, Jesus told the Jews, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may

have life.” The Jews did not discover the truth about the Christ in the Old Testament Scriptures because they were “not willing.” Even though they searched the Scriptures, they remained in error because they didn’t want the truth more than they wanted their own opinions and traditions. We will do no better than they as long as we cherish anything more than the truth. Proverbs 23:23 commands us to “Buy the truth, and do not sell it.”

Study must be thorough, and truly include all of the related information in the Bible on a given subject. Psalm 119:160 states that “The entirety of Your word is truth.” If I want to know the truth, I must take “the entirety” of God’s word. If I dismiss or ignore certain passages of Scripture because they don’t fit with my view of truth, I will not learn the truth.

Study must be done with the humility of one who is ignorant, not with the pride of one who already knows. In 1 Corinthians 8:1,2, the apostle Paul writes, “Now concerning

things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.” The person who doesn’t know, but doesn’t know that he doesn’t know, has a lot to learn, but he is not likely to learn it. One who is proud in his knowledge does not receive instruction and correction; so, he remains in error. “He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray,” Prov 10:17.

I am troubled that there are well-studied brethren who are wrong. Aren’t you? I am keenly aware that I might be in the same shape myself, and just as blissfully ignorant of it as many others seem to be. I must study. I must study more earnestly, more honestly, more thoroughly, and more humbly. “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” 2 Tim 2:15. 

of God. Truly, “the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light,” Lk 16:8. If people of the world are dedicated, determined and dependable in their secular pursuits, surely those of us

who are doing heaven’s work should be more so.

Dedicated: To be dedicated is to be completely committed. Jesus doesn’t ask us to give a part of ourselves to Him; He wants our all. He doesn’t just want three hours on Sunday and one hour on Wednesday. He wants us to be at His disposal every moment of every day—24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. He promises that, “whoever loses his life for My sake will save it,” Lk 9:24.

I suspect that a truly dedicated television newscaster would be ready at any time of the day or night to cover a big story. I have watched TV weathermen stay up all night to keep the public informed during periods of dangerous weather. These people consider such sacrifices to be completely reasonable because they have completely committed themselves to their work. Even so, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service,” Rom 12:1.

Determined: In Luke 9:62 Jesus said, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Our minds must

be made up and focused. On one occasion Barnabas encouraged the saints in Antioch that “with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord,” Acts 11:23. Nothing, nothing, nothing should keep us from continuing to serve the Lord. No trial, tribulation or disappointment should be allowed to change our minds. Like Paul, our attitude should be that “none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy,” Acts 20:24.

Dependable: If anything important happens in North Alabama, a truly dependable TV news station would be on the story like a hen on a June bug. You could count on it.

Can the Lord count on you? If a car only runs two days a week is it dependable? If an employee only shows up for work half the time, is he a faithful employee? Can the Lord count on you to assemble with the saints to worship Him? Can He count on you day by day to study, pray, teach and be an example? Will He be able to greet you on the last day and say, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord,” Mt 25:21? 

Dedicated, Determined, Dependable

By Steve Klein

A local TV station has as its motto “Dedicated, Determined, Dependable.” While this may or may not be an accurate description of Channel 48’s personnel, it strikes me that these words ought to be a true description of you and me as children

Remember in Prayer

Please pray for **Barbara; Betty; Carolyn; Deborah and Serenity; Hazel; Kathy M; Pam B, Julie and Violet; Mark Horton; and John, Sylvia, and Paige Pollard. Pam McNatt’s** condition is still

serious. **Kaylee** is back home; **Chandler** is as well, but having to take it easy for a while; and **Callie’s** kidney function will be monitored for a few more months before any action is taken. 