

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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“...when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding,”

—2 Corinthians 10:12b

**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)

Area Meetings:

Kelly Springs Road, 29, Singing

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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Setting your spiritual clock

By Steve Klein

Several years ago it was reported that the telephone operator in a town in Cape Cod received a call every morning asking for the correct time. Finally, overcome with curiosity, she asked the inquirer, “Would you mind telling me why you call about this time every day and ask for the correct time?” “Sure, I’ll tell you,” the man said. “I want to get the exact time because I’m the man who blows the whistle at twelve o’clock.” “Well, that’s funny, that is,” said the operator, “because every day at the stroke of noon I set our clock by your whistle.”

How often do we set standards for ourselves based on what others are doing without considering what standard they are following? The examples of others are worthy of emulation ONLY IF those setting the examples are following the ONE TRUE

standard or rule. This seems to be Paul’s point in Philippians 3:16b-17 when he states, “let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.” To follow the example of others without being aware of what standard they themselves are following is the height of folly. The scriptures speak of those who, “measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise,” 2 Cor 10:12.

Setting Your Watch

Every individual has a personal standard which he takes with him everywhere. He may either choose to follow it or ignore it. This inner standard is his conscience. Like a wrist watch which we may check through

the day to keep us “on time,” the conscience can be used to keep us on the right track if it has been correctly set. But the conscience can be set by a false standard. Saul of Tarsus lived “in all good conscience” when he was a blasphemer and persecutor of Christians, Acts 23:1; 1 Tim 1:13. The individual who sets his watch by asking a stranger on the street for “the correct time” is a lot like a man who sets his moral standards and religious beliefs by others.

This careless conscience setting is seen, for example, in a Christian whose conscience allows him or her to wear immodest attire because “it is not as immodest as what others wear” or “other Christians dress like this.” It is seen in the person who believes that they can be saved by “faith only,” not because they ever read it in the scriptures (see James 2:24), but because that's what their parents or grandparents believed.

Setting the “Church Clock”

Groups of people sometimes also set their collective conscience by an

uncertain standard. In the days of the judges, Israel pled for a king; they wanted to be “like all the nations,” 1 Sam 8:5. As a group of people, they had set their clock by the surrounding nations. In doing so, they rejected the Lord as their standard of authority, 1 Sam 8:7.

Even so, many churches today set their programs of work according to what surrounding churches (denominations) are doing. Children's church, Easter observances, and “rallies” to entertain the young people are just a few of the practices adopted by some churches of Christ (so-called) which illustrate this point. Each of these things has been done among denominations for decades, and now some churches of Christ are setting their clocks accordingly. Not one of these practices can be found in scripture, either by command, statement, apostolic example or necessary conclusion. These practices are of human origin.

Jesus said, “in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men,” Mt 15:9. 

remarriage, but concerning divorce: “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?” Jesus' reply to that question: “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” It was only after further questioning that Jesus discussed the problem of remarriage and adultery.

Consider Malachi 2:16. “For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away.” Even under the old covenant God did not approve of indiscriminate divorce. It is likely that the “tears” of verse 12 which “covered the altar” and caused the Lord to refuse their offering, were the tears of those who had been wrongfully put away.

Consider Matthew 5:32. “Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery.” Observe the words, “causeth her” or “maketh her” (ASV). This writer understands this verse to say that if one divorces his wife he places her in a position of temptation to commit adultery, and shares the guilt when she does commit adultery. On the other hand, if he puts her away for the cause of fornication, he has put her away legitimately, and shares no guilt in whatever adultery she may subsequently commit.

Consider 1 Corinthians 7:16: “And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband.” Observe the word “command” or “charge” (ASV). The following verse (verse 11) does not negate or nullify this command, but simply recognizes that one might disobey the Lord's command (in which case he sins—1 John 3:4), and states his options if he has disobeyed. Not only does the Lord command husband and wife to live together, but he commands them to meet one another's physical needs (1 Corinthians 7:3-5) and to love one another (Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4-5).

If one companion in a marriage fails along these lines, the other must still be obedient to God, seeking to be what He would have him or her to be in the marriage relationship. Never should the thought of divorce or separation ever enter the mind unless fornication occurs. We are not suggesting that divorce itself is “adultery,” but we are saying that divorce for any cause other than fornication is sin. Christians must not be influenced by the loose standards that prevail in the world in which they live. 

God HATES Divorce

By Bill Hall

“I'm getting a divorce, but I don't plan to marry again.” These words are being heard with increasing frequency. Usually the spokesman is thinking that God allows the right to divorce, but would disapprove

remarriage. The truth is, however; Divorce itself is sinful unless it is for the cause of fornication.

Consider Matthew 19:3-6. The question originally asked Jesus by the Pharisees was not concerning

Remember in Prayer

Betty fell last Sunday, and is in Limestone Rehabilitation on W Hobbs St, Rm 112. Please also pray for **Pam McNatt; Callie H; Carolyn;**

Deborah and Serenity; Hazel; Pam B, Kaylee, Julie and Violet; and **John, Sylvia,** and **Paige Pollard.** 