

## SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday morning worship (Bible study) .....	9:30 AM
Sunday morning worship (Preaching) .....	10:30 AM
Sunday afternoon worship (Preaching).....	4:00 PM
Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study).....	7:00 PM

## NEWS AND NOTES

**SCHEDULE:** The schedule for December is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for the month.

**SICK AND SHUT-INS:** Alice Hamm had some medical tests done in Birmingham this past Wednesday, then saw her medical doctor here, and received a shot for her cold. She is feeling better, but as far as I know, has not heard from the tests in Birmingham. Jack and Brenda Elliott; Donna Criswell and Regina Hamm were all sick at home Wednesday evening with various ailments but are feeling better now. Donna Criswell's aunt, Nell Barrett is not doing very well. Donna's brother has moved in with aunt Nell, but Donna is providing most of her care. Jane Edwards continues physical therapy. Brother Butz's sister has a mass in her chest that may be cancer. Remember Telford Hamm's brothers and his brother-in-law. Remember Jack Elliott's niece. Nancy Summerford's mother is in last stages of Alzheimer's. Virgie Waddle's sister-in-law, Jean Malone is in the Red Bay nursing home. Zola Basham's sister, Mary, has been diagnosed with a brain tumor.

**OUT OF TOWN:** Regina Hamm is in Birmingham with grandchildren. Marvin Butz is visiting his daughter in North Carolina and will not be back until sometime in January.

**TEACHING EFFORTS:** Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was in the **Red Bay News** the first week in October. There are copies of the new issue on the table in the foyer for those who do not receive a paper. There is also an ad in the local paper once a month offering a free Bible correspondence course. Remember our TV/Radio program on local Cable TV channels 12 and 97 at 6:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Sunday and various times through the week as well as the audio on radio stations 1430 AM and 97.9 FM. It is also on Facebook live at various times. There are DVD copies of the TV program available. Jerry is also on the radio on 95.5 FM about 10 AM each Sunday. Please pray that these efforts will reach people interested in studying God's word.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** Tri-Cities Dec 8 – 11 with Stan Caldwell; Mon – Wed 7 pm. If you know of other meetings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

## POINTS TO PONDER

- Some people preach by the bushel and practice by the pint.
- The strong should “bear” — “not bare” — the infirmities of the weak.

# THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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## TRUTH OR ERROR

BY W. Bruce Tooley

Is truth the same as error? This is not a difficult question to answer. It is obvious that a falsehood is not the same as truth. Yet, it is a very popular idea in religion to say that it does not matter what one believes so long as they are sincere. The same idea is expressed in the saying "We are all going to the same place (heaven) just on different roads". If this be true, then there is no difference between truth and error.

What does the word of God say? In John 17:17 we learn that God's word is truth. Thus, one can easily establish what is true in religion by reading the Bible. There is no other source of religious truth. In John 17:20,21 we learn truth unifies. A characteristic of truth is that it does not contradict itself. Therefore, in following truth one will be united in faith and practice with all others following the truth. Following error results in confusion and division.

Does it really make a difference? Jesus said in John 8:32 "You shall know the truth and the truth will make you free." Does being set free from the burden of sin matter to you? If so, then determining what is truth is essential because the truth makes you free, not falsehood.

In 2Thessalonians 2:9-12 God, through Paul, tells us that those who do not love the truth and who believe a lie will perish. Jesus promised that His apostles would by the power of the Holy Spirit receive truth (John 14:26 and 16:13). Once this truth was revealed to them, they were able to say, "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one, we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!" (Galatians 1:8). Such strong language ought to impress upon our minds that there is a great difference between truth and error thereby showing it does make a difference what one believes and practices. To be saved one must follow the truth of God's word.

## **“PREACH, BUT LEAVE OTHERS ALONE”**

By Hoyt Houchen

The above caption not only represents the thinking great majority of people in the denominations, but unfortunately it reflects the attitude of some of our own brethren. It involves the idea that we should preach only what is agreeable to everyone, avoiding anything of a controversial nature.

First of all, it is impossible to preach the truth and leave other people alone. It does not matter what subject a gospel preacher may select; it will contradict the belief of somebody. For instance, suppose that I should decide to preach on the subject of God. In that sermon I point out that there is but one God and no other. I point out the attributes of God, showing the characteristics of God as taught in the Bible. That sermon would meet the approval of many people, but are we so naive as to believe that it would meet the approval of everyone? It certainly would not leave the atheist alone.

But suppose that I should decide to preach on the subject of Christ. I go to the word of God and prove His virgin birth, His divinity, His pure and sinless life, His example for us to follow, and the authority of His teaching. This sermon too would meet the approval of many, but even that kind of preaching would not be agreeable to the orthodox Jew who rejects Christ as the Messiah. Are we to cease preaching Christ because it offends the Jew?

But now I decide to preach on baptism. I simply preach what the New Testament says about it. I quote such passages as Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Galatians 3:27 and 1 Peter 3:21. However, when I do this, I am not leaving a good majority of religious people alone. A good part of the denominational world would not be in agreement with my preaching on baptism because a good part of the denominational world denies the essentiality of baptism as a condition of salvation. Should I refrain from preaching on baptism because it does not leave others alone?

I preach on the one church that is revealed in the New Testament. I quote such passages as Ephesians 4:4; 1:22, and Colossians 1:18. But that kind of preaching does not please those who teach and believe that there are many churches and that one is just as good as another. Am I to stop preaching on the one church because there are people who disagree?

The truth is very plain that it is absolutely impossible to preach on any Bible subject and leave other people alone. God does not expect us to do so. Paul wrote in Galatians

1:10, "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? or am I striving to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of Christ."

People must know the difference between truth and error that they may be saved from their sins. Many are sincere, but wrong; many are honest, but they are misled. It is only when error is pointed out to people that they will know to leave error.

## **NO RULES!**

By Greg Gwin

The concept of 'no rules' seems initially appealing to many people. Just think – you can do whatever you want, whenever you want, wherever you want. Wonderful!

But, wait, if I can do whatever, whenever, wherever, then so can everyone else. That means that their actions may impact upon me. They might decide to take my car, burn my house, or steal my children. If there are 'no rules,' then they can do anything, and there is no basis to stop them.

Rules, we come to realize, are extremely necessary. My rights, my property, in fact my very existence depend upon rules. Without them, 'civilization' would come to an end.

Religion is no different. Rules are clearly necessary. If allowed to do whatever we want, there is no end to the chaos that results. The confused and divided religious world of our day is a testimony against the misguided notion that man should do as he pleases when it comes to serving God.

How can we know what is right? How can we be assured that God is pleased? On what basis can we judge that certain religious deeds are proper, and others are wrong? Surely these matters cannot be left to the subjective feelings of men. The 'I'm OK, you're OK' approach is a proven failure. There must be something objective and certain that will direct us as we seek God.

The objective standard we seek is the inspired Word of God. It is a "light to our path, and a lamp to our feet" (Ps. 119:105). God's word is the truth (Jn. 17:17) that can make us free (Jn. 8:32).

With the divinely delivered 'rule book' in hand, we must respect it and comply with its regulations. This would include 'speaking where the Bible speaks, and being silent where the Bible is silent' (1 Pet. 4:11), and demanding 'book, chapter, and verse' for everything we do (Col. 3:17). Anything less will lead to the anarchy of 'no rules.'