

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

**E-mail:** kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

**Website:** www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law,”



—Deuteronomy 29:29, NIV

**Servants during June:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (7), Larry (14), Dwight (21), Stanley (28)

**Reading:** Stanley

**Announcements:** Larry

**Table:** Stanley, Marty, Larry

**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (3), Stanley (10), Kris (17), Larry (24)

**Area Meetings:**

**Pepper Road,** 6-11, Joshua Gurtler;  
**Eastside (Athens),** 14-19, Tommy Peeler;  
**Jackson Drive,** 14-19, Various

**We have a meeting coming up  
 Sept 13-16 with Jonathan Carswell!**

**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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## The Secret Things

By Jeff Himmel

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law,” Deut 29:29, NIV.

These words, spoken by Moses to Israel long ago, still carry an important message for God’s people. Consider three concepts that are emphasized in this verse.

### *The Danger of Speculation*

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God.” There is much that God has not revealed to us. While it’s interesting to think about such things, it isn’t really profitable. In fact, speculating about unrevealed matters can be dangerous. Paul warned Timothy of some who had “turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though

they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions,” 1 Tim 1:6,7. He told him to “refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels,” 2 Tim 2:23. And he encouraged Titus to “avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless,” Tit 3:9.

Speculation is at its worst when it becomes the basis for belief and practice. Much of what men call “theology” is just conjecture about unrevealed matters. And much of what men call “worship” or “ministry” or “religion” is action without divine authorization. God warns against adding to His revelation. “Every word of God is tested... Do not add

to His words, or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar," Prov 30:5,6. Instead of speculating where God has not spoken and presuming to act where He is silent, we need to apply ourselves to what He has revealed.

### *The Blessing of Revelation*


"The things revealed belong to us and to our children forever." A "secret" or "mystery" is something covered up or hidden; a "revelation" is something uncovered. In His revelation, God is sharing His mind with us. "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law," Prov 29:18. Without God's revelation we'd be groping in darkness, unable to know what He has done, what He has promised, or how we should live. "For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?" 1 Cor 2:16.

God has communicated His will to us. What a great blessing! In Christ, God has revealed to us what even the prophets of old did not understand, Heb 1:1,2; 1 Pet 1:10-12. We should be

thankful for God's revelation and diligent in learning it. Praising the commandments of God's law, David said, "They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb," Psa 19:7-10.

### *The Responsibility of Hearers*

"That we may follow all the words of this law." Since God has revealed His will, we have a responsibility to know it and obey it. His law defines right and wrong conduct. Without such a standard, sin would not exist, Rom 5:13. But since we have access to the revelation of God's standard, we are without excuse when we violate it, cf Jn 15:22.

God promises to hold us accountable for our response to His revelation. Our text in Deuteronomy 29 comes just after a list of blessings on obedience and curses on disobedience, in chapters 27 and 28. And Jesus promised, "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day," Jn 12:48. 

## *A Prayer for Every Day*

May I be too brave to lie or be unkind.  
May I be too understanding, too, to mind  
The little hurts companions give, and friends,  
The careless hurts that no one quite intends.  
May I be too thoughtful to hurt others so.

Help me to know  
The inmost hearts of those for whom I care,  
Their secret wishes, all the loads they bear,  
That I may add my courage to their own.  
May I make lonely folks feel less alone,  
And happy ones a little happier yet.

May I forget  
What ought to be forgotten; and recall  
Unfailing, all  
That ought to be recalled, each kindly thing,  
Forgetting what might sting.  
To all upon my Way,  
Day after day,  
Let me be joy, be hope! Let my life sing!

—Mary Carolyn Davies, edited 

## *Remember in Prayer*

**David Harwell's health** continues to degrade; he says that he is pretty much confined to a wheelchair, now. **Larry and Shane** have been traveling, but are planning to return today.

Please continue to pray for **Betty; Hazel; Marie and Billy;** as well as **Cindy's** parents (**Don** and **Jackie Churches**), and her brother

**Kenny**, who cares for them; and **John, Sylvia,** and **Paige Pollard.**

Pray for our brethren around the world, especially those that suffer persecution for the sake of Christ; and for those that strive to preach the gospel, particularly in difficult regions, where the truth is not seen for the blessing it really is.

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*Give God what's right... not what's left.*

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