

**New Caney  
Church of Christ**

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**Assembly Times**

*Sundays*  
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
*Wednesdays*  
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

***Retaining The Standard  
Of Sound Doctrine***

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**Know Your Bible: Answers**

1. The chief priests (Matt. 28:11-15)
2. Solomon (1 Kings 12:1-14)
3. Rome (Luke 2:1-7)
4. Levi, also called Matthew (Luke 5:29-32)

**This Week's Assignments & Events**

**Sunday Worship**

Greeter: Eddie Bowen  
Announcements: Robert McCorkle  
Encouragement Talk: Arturo Orozco  
Opening Prayer: Kyle Crain  
Scripture Reading: Brad Smith  
Philippians 4:15-20  
Song Leader: Todd McAdams  
Table Talk: Josh Emerson  
Contribution: Ryan Haarmann  
Helper: Jacob McAdams  
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale  
Helper: Lester Mabry  
Helper: Verlin Wilson  
Closing Prayer: Pete Galvan

**Sunday Afternoons**

May 14 Nothing  
May 21 3PM Bible Fundamentals Class  
Parent planned youth devotional  
May 28 NOON Prep Classrooms for Carpet Cleaning  
4PM Singing with Donald Hejl  
June 4 4PM Devotionals (Men, Women, Youth)

**Wednesday Evening**

Song Leader: Harper Flores  
Speaker: Josh Emerson



# Standing Firm

“Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”  
Ephesians 6:13

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## Go Into All The World

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all nations” (Mk. 16:16).

So Jesus commissioned His disciples following His resurrection. He sent His men into the world to preach good news to everyone. By application, we are to take the good news of our Savior into the world. If we don't, who will? God is counting on us in both public and private settings to look for them who are looking for Him.

We can thank God for many efforts around the world to lead people to Christ. In recent months, we have reported some of those efforts on the pages of Focus. These words constitute more encouragement to remember our responsibility with enthusiasm and determination. We must open our eyes, hearts, hands, and mouths to go into the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**We Must Go Into The World With Our Eyes Opened:** When Jesus sent out His hand-picked representatives, He wanted them to go with opened eyes (Matt. 10:16). He knew they would be as sheep in the midst of wolves and would need to be both shrewd and innocent. We must take the gospel to a world that does not know Jesus (John 1:10) and does not want light (John. 3:19,20). We work in enemy territory and must have our eyes opened.

The god of this world is hard at work among millions who have yielded to Him (Eph. 2:2). Who wants to hear that we are not at liberty to choose our own way in life, much less our own way to heaven? Who wants to hear about personal responsibility and accountability? What wants their morals challenged or their style cramped?

As we go into the world, we must pray earnestly for the Lord to protect us (Matt. 6:13; Jno. 17:14,15). We are to be the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13-16). We must penetrate society with the gospel of Christ and form a counter-culture of spiritual values and standards. And in the process, we must have our eyes open and our heads on straight. “Be careful how you walk” (Eph. 5:15- 17).

**We Must Go Into The World With Our Hearts Opened:** It is easy in a society permeated by sin either to acquiesce to its pressures or to grow cynical and skeptical about it. We may need to take a step back to see the larger picture. Our world is subjected to futility. Creation is suffering and groaning (Rom. 8:18-23) People live fragmented lives, scattered and shattered by sin, whether they know it or not. Sin is taking its awful toll and sinners are its victims. This is not in any way to excuse sin, but it is to explain the debt it racks up and the penalty it demands.

The world is violent and vulgar. And there is more at work than we can see. Paul said “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this

darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:10). But God so loved the world (John 3:16), and we must, too. Jesus sighed over the effects of sin (Mk. 7:34) and mourned over the sight of Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-39).

People in the world are made in the image of God, and the gospel is for them. We must at times get involved in the world’s hurt and dirt so we may save some (1 Cor. 9:19-22). When we go into the world with the gospel, we must open our eyes and be on guard and open our hearts with love and compassion.

**We Must Go Into The World With Our Hands Opened:** Many of us have the opportunity and obligation to open our hands generously that more and more people might hear the gospel of Christ. Both individually and collectively, we must financially support the preaching. *“The Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel”* (1 Cor. 9:9).

Taking the gospel into the world requires manpower and money. All Christians cannot go to distant places to preach. But some can, and we should send them, support them, and encourage them. In Corinth, Paul joined with Aquila and Priscilla in tent-making to support himself while preaching. given the circumstances, Paul was careful and judicious in receiving support from the Corinthians themselves (see 1 Cor. 9:3-14). But then Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, and *“Paul began devoting himself completely to the word”* (Acts 18:1-5). The implication is that Silas and Timothy brought resources to Paul, enabling him to focus entirely on preaching the gospel.

Doors stand open with opportunities on many fronts for people to take the gospel to the world. We must trust God’s giving principle: *“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return”* (Lk. 6:38).

**We Must Go Into The World With Our Mouths Opened:** Finally, this is what it takes – you and I telling people about Jesus. It may be an invitation to our services. It may be a suggestion to have a Bible study or to set up a Bible study with someone else teaching. It may be inviting children to Vacation Bible School or bring children to the classes. Who knows what God may do through your invitation or words of encouragement.

Paul’s “I am” statements tell it all – Rom. 1:14-16. I am under obligation – a debt to people who are lost to tell them about being saved. I am eager – an enthusiasm about salvation in Jesus Christ. I am not ashamed – faith and boldness about the power of God unto salvation. We are won to win, taught to teach, saved to save. Everyone will not listen. Some will reject the gospel. But Jesus calls us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, and the only way we’ll ever do this is to open our mouths to tell someone about the Savior.

By David Holder in Focus Magazine, Issue No. 73.

## **Know Your Bible**

### **Taxes & Bribes**

1. Who bribed the guards to say the body of Jesus was stolen by the disciples?
2. What king is remembered as placing a “heavy yoke” of taxation on Israel?
3. What empire’s taxation led to Jesus being born in Bethlehem?
4. Who made for Jesus a feast that was attended by many tax collectors?

*Answers On Back*

### **Sunday Sermon**

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



## **Prisoner or Free**

by George Slover

*“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear”* (Philippians 1:12-14).

Most of us know that when Paul wrote his letter to Philippi, he was a prisoner in Rome. The recent misfortunes of those close to me have caused me to reflect on the hardships of Paul. Paul’s remarkable attitude and wonderful optimism is impressive. He is not really a prisoner, but free. How is that possible?

First, he does not allow circumstances to rule his life. His life is subject to God, not men. Paul had prayed for opportunities to come to Rome.

(Romans 15:30-32) Though it seems a strange way to answer his prayer, as a prisoner Paul had arrived in Rome. For this Paul was grateful no matter what the circumstances. He never allowed occasions or surroundings to rule his life. Only God rules, only his fellowship really counts. What a great attitude!

Second, that which seems evil presents him with opportunities for good. We all have a plan about how life should turn out. Some have the fortune of making dreams and fulfilling those dreams. However, many are not afforded such an opportunity. Sudden tragedy turns their world upside down. For Paul, imprisonment gave opportunity to preach to the Praetorian Guard. These soldiers were drawn to this suffering servant and his remarkable faith. For two whole years he preached the kingdom of God. We should never think that we could serve God better, if circumstances were better than they are.

Third, his example of courage inspired others to boldness in proclaiming the gospel. Tragedies, if handled properly, can embolden others who find themselves in a similar dilemma. An example is better than a command. The sight of a suffering saint, patient, contented, happy, does more to encourage the brethren than a hundred sermons! Such is visible proof of the power of Christ!

Unfortunately, I find myself enslaved to the circumstances of life. If I could just learn to bask in God’s sweet fellowship, seek opportunities for good in the midst of evil, then like Paul, I will no longer be enslaved, but free in Christ!