

**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. Ciaphas's (Matthew 26:3)
2. Zechariah (Luke 1:5)
3. Sceva (Acts 19:14)
4. Levi (Exodus 4:14)
5. Zadok (1 Kings 1:45)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Ronnie Lightfoot
Announcements: Ronnie Ramsey
Encouragement Talk: Ryan Haarmann
Opening Prayer: Kyle Crain
Scripture Reading: Eddie Bowen
Colossians 2:18-23
Song Leader: Arturo Orozco
Table Talk: Todd McAdams
Contribution: Jacob McAdams
Helper: Brad Smith
Fruit of Vine: John Franks
Helper: Jonathan Lovell
Helper: Lester Mabry
Closing Prayer: Robert McCorkle

Sunday Afternoons

July 30 3PM Men's Meeting with Elders
3PM Children's Class Workday (quarter change)
Aug 6 Parent Planned Youth Devotional
Aug 13 Visitation Day
Aug 20 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Ryan Haarmann
Speaker: Todd McAdams



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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Convenient Faith

Imagine a not-so-distant future for America. Foreign terrorists have managed to detonate nuclear explosions in 12 major American cities. Millions are dead. The economy has failed, meaning money is worthless. Barter and trade are the only means of gaining anything. The power grid has been down for 4 months and there is no indication it will be repaired. All phone service stopped when the bombs went off. The national government ceased to exist in any practical form. Local authorities have generally declared martial law. Senseless killings are everywhere, starvation is common, death due to weather is all too real. Persecution and prejudices have become the normal operating procedure across the land. Slavery has been reborn. Most everyone is hungry and scared.

What would happen to your faith in such a situation? Would it grow, shrink, fade, disappear? We have it so good in our country we sometimes fail to remember how difficult it was in the first century when the church began. Persecutions were everywhere because of their faith. Destruction of homes, businesses, even the city of Jerusalem were a direct result of their teaching about Christ. Families were torn apart, some thrown in prisons, some taken into slavery, some killed. Any right-thinking individual alive at the time would have been scared of the consequences of claiming to be a Christian. It was in that environment that the faith of people grew and the church became established and rose to dominate the religions of the world. How would our current faith compare with the faith of those first Christians?

We face real assaults in our country today, though not from what we now call terrorists. Abortion, drugs and alcohol abuse, divorce, pornography, financial frauds – all of these make God-fearing individuals want to shake their heads and think ‘things are getting worse and worse’. I’m certain the first century Christians had thoughts like that as well.

The point of this article is: do we have real faith, or merely convenient faith? It's easy to be a Christian in America today compared with the first century Christians. It is convenient to have faith in that we have a community of saints to be a part of, we "fit in" with the average "Christian" American image, but many are not living the Christian life. It seems for some faith is merely a convenience that will likely be tossed aside when it becomes a hindrance or the cause of persecution.

James 4:17 says *"faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."* We must be those who live the Christian life, who are at work doing God's will. I fear many American Christians would leave the faith if Jesus sent us a message like He sent to the church in Smyrna: *"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* (Rev. 2:10). It is during the difficult times that our faith is tested. *"The testing of your faith produces endurance"* (James 1:3), IF we maintain our faith during the trial. Faith that is merely on the surface, that has no deep roots into the heart, is a faith that will be shrugged off in the face of trial. The example of the first century Christians is that our faith needs to be real, and not merely convenient. In fact, real faith will be inconvenient. It will interfere with other things we might want to do. It will motivate us to do things for God that we have not done before. Spiritual growth is not convenient, but it is a sign of faithfulness!

Charles Willis



"be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma"
(Ephesians 5:1)

Know Your Bible

Priests

1. In what priest's home did the enemies of Jesus meet to plot against Him?
2. What priest was the father of John the Baptist?
3. What priest had 7 sons who were casting out demons in the name of Jesus?
4. What tribe of Israel did all the priests spring from?
5. What priest anointed Solomon as king?

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.



The World

versus

Jesus

There are many churches, all of which lead to the same place. It doesn't matter which church I attend.

As long as I am sincere in what I believe and truthful to that doctrine, God will save me.

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change. It is not necessary for salvation.

Children are born in sin and must be baptized as an infant to be right with God.

"upon this rock I will build My church"
(Matt. 16:18) [see also Eph. 4:4; 2:22–23]

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter" (Matt. 7:21).

"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"
(John 12:48).

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (Matt. 28:19–20).

"Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matt. 19:14).

August 13 - Visitation Day

With our change in the Sunday schedule this year we want to encourage members to visit on Sunday afternoons. To promote this, we are asking that every member plan some visitation effort on August 13. Visiting homebound and those who are sick (Matt. 25:35) and those who are missing assemblies (Heb. 13:13) are always good works. Visit with members that you do not regularly have opportunity to visit with - get to know one another better. Invite someone who has been visiting our assemblies. You are encouraged to invite people to your home, or visit someone else's home.

"Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another... be hospitable to one another without complaint" (1 Peter 4:8–9).