

**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. James (Acts 12:1–2)
2. Matthias (Acts 1:23–26)
3. Matthew (Matthew 10:3)
4. Levi (Luke 5:27)
5. Peter, Andrew, James, John
6. John (Revelation 1:9)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Chris Beard
Announcements: Josh Emerson
Encouragement Talk: Eddie Bowen
Opening Prayer: Brad Smith
Scripture Reading: Joel Jordan
Colossians 3:12–17
Song Leader: Arturo Orozco
Table Talk: John Van Baale
Contribution: Kyle Crain
Helper: Kevin Buckner
Fruit of Vine: Robert McCorkle
Helper: Billy Lovell
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Closing Prayer: Ryan Haarmann

Sunday Afternoons

Aug 20 Nothing
Aug 27 4PM Worship - Harper Flores to preach
Sept 3 4PM Bible Fundamentals Class
Sept 10 4PM Worship (Gospel Meeting)

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Brad Smith
Speaker: Ryan Haarmann



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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A Good Conscience

God has created every individual with a conscience. This is a mental aspect of our being that passes judgment on whether something is right or wrong, and praises us or condemns us. Paul speaks of *“their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them”* (Romans 2:15). When a person knows the truth and commits sin, their conscience hurts. Judas *“felt remorse”* (Matthew 27:3), *“David’s conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul’s robe”* (1 Samuel 24:5), some on the day of Pentecost were *“pierced to the heart”* (Acts 2:37). Sadly, if a person does not know the truth, they can continue to have a good conscience. Paul said *“I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day”* (Acts 23:1) though before becoming a Christian he persecuted the church and had many killed. We must understand that the conscience must be and will be trained.

Scripture speaks of an evil conscience in that their conscience is defiled (Titus 1:15–16), their hearts are hardened (Eph. 4:17–19), and the conscience is seared as with a hot iron (1 Tim. 4:2). Scripture also speaks of a good conscience and tells us how to have the good conscience. Of Christians it is said *“let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water”* (Heb. 10:22). Baptism (symbolized in the phrase “bodies washed”) sprinkles the heart clean. The conscience that condemns us (causes us to feel guilt over sin) is cleansed (we no longer feel guilt). This is brought out more when Peter writes *“baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience”* (1 Peter 3:21). We want God to forgive us so that our guilt no longer remains over sin. That is exactly what is done when we are *“baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins”* (Acts 2:38). *“The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7) and *“the blood of Christ”* will *“cleanse your conscience from dead works”* (Heb. 9:14). Scripture tells us how to cleanse the conscience through obedience to the gospel.

There are several other passages that continue to speak about the good conscience as something we are to maintain - to not violate our conscience.

Romans 14 speaks of matters of opinion - meaning I can be more strict on myself than what God demands. The example is not eating meats which God has not forbidden (14:2). The chapter also speaks of *“observing one day above another”* (14:5). The teaching is “each person must be fully convinced in his own mind” (14:5) about matters of opinion. *“Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin”* (Rom. 14:22–23). To “doubt” points to the conscience. To violate my conscience (even in an area of opinion) will be sin which God will judge.

The goal of preaching the gospel is *“love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith”* (1 Tim. 1:5). Here the “good conscience” is a *“clear conscience”* (2 Tim. 1:3) that does not condemn. We must adopt the attitude of Paul who said, *“I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men”* (Acts 24:16). This requires us to think about our conscience and listen to our conscience. This may be difficult when for *“the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly”* (1 Pet. 2:19). Better to suffer now than violate the conscience and suffer the punishment of God. Paul writes, it is necessary to be in subjection to the governing authorities *“not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’ sake”* (Rom. 13:5), and for this reason *“you also pay taxes”* (13:6) and give *“honor to whom honor”* (13:7). The governing authority may be godless, but God says we are to submit - therefore we cannot violate our conscience and sin against God. Peter also says we are to *“keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame”* (1 Pet. 3:16).

Each one of us have a conscience which we must train in the way of God. Do you have a conscience cleansed by the blood of Christ? Are you maintaining your conscience? Think on these things.
by Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Apostles

1. Who was the first apostle to be martyred?
2. Who succeeded Judas as an apostle?
3. Which apostle was a tax collector?
4. By what other name was Matthew known?
5. Which apostles were fishermen?
6. Who was banished to the island of Patmos?

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.



Ignorance

by Steve Klein

Satan uses many tools in his attempts to ensnare us. In 2 Cor. 2:10–11, the apostle Paul admonishes the Corinthians to forgive a repentant brother *“lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”* Paul was “not ignorant” of the fact that Satan can use our unwillingness to forgive another as a snare. This is but one device or tool Satan uses. Paul’s use of the plural word “devices” suggests that Satan has other instruments as well - one of which is ignorance itself. I am afraid that many precious souls are going to be lost because they are ignorant of the dangers of innocence.

While Satan can certainly use our ignorance of any number of things against us, it is ignorance of God’s will that makes us particularly vulnerable to him. Through his prophet Hosea the Lord declared, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children”* (Hosea 4:6). In Ephesians 4:18, we read about those who have *“their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.”* Destruction and alienation from God are the consequences of being ignorant of His will.

This is so because without a knowledge of God’s will we have no sure means of determining right from wrong. It is only by using God’s word that we have our *“senses exercised to discern both good and evil”* (Heb. 5:14). The Psalmist declares, *“Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I have every false way”* (Ps. 119:104). But, without knowledge of God’s will, men tend to love rather than hate every false way.

Friend, how would you rate your knowledge of God’s word? Is it what it ought to be? Or, are you aware of broad gaps in your knowledge, things you haven’t studied, beliefs you haven’t tested, sections of Scripture you haven’t read? Be warned: **What you don’t know can hurt you!** And Satan will do his best to make sure that it does!

Our Gospel Meeting is September 10–13

With D.J. Dickerson from LaPorte

Handouts are available in the foyer. Take some and share them!

A meal sign-up is posted in the foyer.