

**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. Gideon (Judges 6:11-23)
2. Cherubim (Genesis 3:24)
3. Isaiah (6:5-7)
4. The Assyrians (2 Kings 19:35)



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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Complacency

“Then is shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vinyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you shall eat and be satisfied, then watch yourself, lest you forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Deut. 6:10-12).

One of the greatest difficulties in serving God in this country is the tendency toward complacency. In America, we are blessed with laws which protect us from persecution, and we are individually blessed with a wealth which exceeds almost any country in history. Even today, much of the world would be amazed at what we possess (homes, cars, computers, etc.). These two factors, wealth and protection from persecution, have combined to produce a lack of urgency in our service to God. Never mind that we, like the Israelites, had little to do with either factor. Most of us were born in this country (with its freedoms already in place) and born into our socio-economic station. But rather than give thanks to God for these blessings, we often grow lackadaisical, considering that this will continue forever.

That was the problem facing Israel as they prepared to take possession of the land God had promised. It was their good fortune (a blessing from God) to be born of the seed of Abraham and to be given the land of Canaan by God. Moses warned them not to forget God, and it would serve us well to heed this warning.

One important idea in remembering God is continuing to remember what He has done for us. He sent His Son to die for our sins (Jn 3:16; Rom. 5:8), and He blessed us with the knowledge we need to live with Him (2 Pet. 1:3). There are also the many blessings, both spiritual and physical, for which we owe a great debt to God (James 1:17). These thoughts should serve to remind us that it is God who has so richly given us salvation and an abundant life here as well.

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Eddie Bowen
Announcements: Ronnie Ramsey
Encouragement Talk: Tyler Blazek
Opening Prayer: Josh Emerson
Scripture Reading: Corwin Richardson
1 Thessalonians 3:1-8
Song Leader: Jacob McAdams
Table Talk: Brad Smith
Contribution: Harper Flores
Helper: Kyle Crain
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale
Helper: Billy Lovell
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Closing Prayer: Victor Studdard

Sunday Afternoons

Oct 29 Nothing
Nov 5 4PM Teacher Classroom Change
Nov 12 Parent Planned Youth Devotional
Nov 19 4PM Encouragement Effort (writing cards, emails at the meeting)

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Corwin Richardson
Speaker: Harper Flores

A careful assessment of our own spiritual blessings in Christ, coupled with an unvarnished look at the world around us should lead us to the conclusion that there are still too many without the hope that we have. That should spur us on to try to reach others with the gifts of the gospel. Paul understood that, even in chains, he was far more rich than a king who had not received Christ (Acts 26:27-29). It should be our desire to see all we come in contact with respond to the gospel, and this kind of attitude will prevent us from becoming complacent. How can we rest when so many are lost? A heart willing to teach others will find it hard to forget God.

A final effort at avoiding complacency is in recognizing that our race is not yet run. Again, it is Paul who sets the example, explaining that even he continued to reach for and press toward the goal of a life in heaven with Christ (Phil. 3:13-14). This striving for righteousness will keep us focused on the gifts that God has already provided, as well as have us reaching for the goal we have not yet attained.

We know that the Israelites did become complacent and they forgot God. They began to disregard the blessings of the land of Canaan and serve other gods. If we do the same, the lessons of the Israelite betrayal of God will have been lost. We cannot allow our rich blessings to become a buffer which separates us from striving to truly know God.

Rusty Miller, Abundant Life, Feb. 2001

Know Your Bible

Encounters With Angels

1. Who was commissioned by an angel to save Israel from the Midianites?
2. What kind of angelic beings guarded the entrance to Eden?
3. Who had his lips touched by a live coal help be a seraph?
4. What foreign army had 185,000 men killed by the angel of the Lord?

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.



You Need The Right Tool

by Charles Willis

It was just a screw that needed tightening. It would just be a simple thing to snug it up, but I couldn't find a Phillips screwdriver. Have you ever tried to tighten a screw with Bic ball point pen cap? Or a pair of tweezers? Maybe you had success with a pocket knife. Nothing worked for me. I was unable to complete the job because I didn't have the right tool, and that was frustrating.

What makes a tool "right" is that it is made for the job you are trying to accomplish. A hammer has one job. A hand saw has one job, as do most other specific saws. Software is a computer tool that is designed for a specific job. Anyone who has used a computer knows the frustration of having a program that won't do what you need it to do. In every situation, the right tool makes all the difference.

Men want to be saved. But, like my handiwork efforts, some try everything but the right tool to accomplish the job. Some will create their own doctrine or adopt a tradition that they think will work. Rather than search for the right tool or going and getting the right tool, we tend to search for the shortcut and the convenience, even if it is not a right tool. The sad truth is many think they have entered a saved relationship with God, when fact they have not, because they have used a wrong tool to supposedly enter that relationship.

Only one thing will accomplish salvation, and that is obedience to Jesus Christ. God has done His part in providing a means of salvation through Jesus Christ. His grace is a gift to anyone who will obey Him. Every man can enjoy the spiritual blessings, but only if they are in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3). Baptism is the way we are placed into Christ (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27), yet many today reject that baptism is necessary for salvation. If you reject the only means of accomplishing the task, then you have failed. So Scripture tells us, "baptism now saves you" (1 Peter 3:21). Through baptism we come into contact with the blood of Jesus, and by God's grace are forgiven of our sins (Acts 2:38).

If we believe we have been saved through any other means than through what Jesus taught, we have deceived ourselves (Acts 4:12). Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2) and is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Him (John 14:6). Using the wrong tool in an attempt to be saved makes even less sense than trying to build something with a wrong tool. This is because salvation is eternal, and if we do not obey the truth we will be eternally condemned. Therefore we are instructed to "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!" (2 Cor. 13:5). The only way to please God so as to be saved eternally is through obedience to all that Jesus said: "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 to observe all that I commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20).

Are you using the right tool?

