

**New Caney
Church of Christ**

(physical) 19351 FM 1485
(mail) P.O. Box 903
New Caney, TX 77357
281-399-5900
www.NewCaneyChurchofChrist.org

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***

Evangelist: Charles Willis
281-841-5718
charleswillisNCCofC@gmail.com

Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Swallowed by Earth (Numbers 16)
2. Miraim (Numbers 12)
3. A strong East wind (Ex. 14:21)
4. It was filled with maggots (Ex. 16:20)
5. Fiery serpents (Numbers 21)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Kevin Buckner
Announcements: John Franks
Encouragement Talk: Brad Smith
Opening Prayer: Harper Flores
Scripture Reading: Arturo Orozco
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
Song Leader: Todd McAdams
Table Talk: John Franks
Contribution: Jacob McAdams
Helper: Theo Edge
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale
Helper: Verlan Wilson
Closing Prayer: Ronnie Ramsey

Sunday Afternoons

Wednesday Evening
Song Leader: John Franks
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

Volume 20
Number 51
December 17, 2023

Remembering Once A Year

Sadly, many only think of Jesus Christ once a year, perhaps twice if you consider Easter. This time of year many are flocking to assemblies to remember the birth of Jesus. I do not believe the Bible teaches that December 25th is the day Christ was born, nor does the Bible teach we are to memorialize His birth. We are to remember His death by partaking of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11; Matt. 26:26-29) and that is to be on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), not once a year.

But the sad reality is that many, even most, only think of Jesus at Christmas. We who understand the truth of these things often shrink back from discussing the Bible at this time of the year. As my friend Don Truex has said - why? That's when they want to talk about it - let's talk! We need to teach the truth about Jesus' birth, bit at the same time we can easily teach what Jesus wanted us to remember about Him. Once that door is opened, a virtual highway is available for teaching the gospel! Let us not hold back the truth because of some notion that we don't want others to think we celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday - instead let's be about the business of teaching others the truth. In our society the ones who will be perceived as agreeing with the holiday as a religious day are those who say nothing.

Let me place another thought in your mind to consider. Many people, Christians included, only remember those in need once a year; perhaps twice if you consider Thanksgiving. This is a distinctly American tradition and there is nothing wrong with us trying to help the less fortunate at any time of the year. It is God-like to remember the needy only once or twice a year?

The example Jesus gives us is in Luke 10:25-37. The good Samaritan helped the hurting man, not because of what time of year it was, but because he saw the need! Perhaps we don't see the need as often as we ought. With life as good as it is in America, it is easy to go about with blinders on and not see the need - but I assure you,

it is there! Ephesians 4:28 says we are to labor so that we might “*will have something to share with one who has need.*” Give to who? Anyone who is in need. Give when? When they are in need. 1 John 3:17 speaks of helping the brother in need, but the Christian is not limited in who we are to help as individuals.

So why do Christians sometimes only help the needy once a year - and then it is some gift such as a toy or a few toiletries. Do we believe that this is a Christian method of helping those in real need? Perhaps our conscience is relieved because we might think our obligation to help others has been fulfilled. Let us not be so high-minded to think that God is pleased when we ignore the needs others most of the year.

We are often condemned by those in denominations that we are uncaring because we do not help the needy as a work of the church. They are correct in that the Bible does not authorize benevolence to everyone as a work of the church (coming from the church treasury) - but is IS a work of the individual. Too often Christians are rightly condemned because they do nothing to help strangers for fear that it might be construed as a work of the church. How say that we have forgotten Jesus’ example of the good Samaritan. We, of all people, who needed the most help being lost and apart from God should recognize how desperate the need is physically for some and do what we can to help We must never forget Matthew 25:31–46 where Jesus condemns those who would not help the one in need. Those went away into everlasting punishment (verse 46) and were separated from God.

Remembering once a year will not suffice - whether remembering the needy, or remembering the Lord. A daily walk with God will force us to see Christ and see those around us in need - both spiritually and physically. Brethren - think on these things!

by Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Moses and Miracles

1. What happened to the rebellious Korah and his men?
2. Who was made leprous and then healed after her rebellious acts?
3. What did the Lord use to part the Red Sea?
4. What happened to the manna the Israelites hoarded?
5. What bit the Israelites, causing Moses to fix a brass figure on a pole?

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.



May A Christian Engage In Social Drinking? W.R. Jones

Drunkenness is strongly condemned in God’s word. Paul wrote, “Let us walk honestly, as in the day, not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying...” (Rom. 13:13). “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these... drunkenness, revellings.” Paul further says, “They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21). Here we find but two of the many passages where God gives attention to drunkenness. Are these references not enough to make any Christian avoid even the slightest connection with the great mocker, alcohol? Indeed, in this matter, every Christian has a responsibility to keep, not only himself circumspect, but to refrain from influencing others toward evil and its potentials.

But what about “social drinking” for the Christian?

Let us observe the statements of Peter: “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries” (1 Peter 4:3). Please observe that Peter uses two different expressions, “excess of wine” and “banquetings.” I believe that Peter is showing that not only drunkenness is sinful, but also drinking parties. In fact, it is interesting to note in the NASV, the Greek word *patios* (which is translated, “banquetings” in the KJV) is translated “drinking parties.” So what does Peter say about those who engage in these parties of “social drinking?” He says the Christian should “no longer live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lust of men, but to the will of God” (1 Peter 4:2). Social drinking of alcohol is living in “the flesh to the lust of men.”

Christians have no business engaging in “social drinking.” Christians have no business endorsing and upholding a practice that will destroy others. Some years ago, I was invited to speak at an AA meeting. At the end of the program, I was allowed to ask questions of the hundred or more in the audience. This was my question to those alcoholics: “How did you get started with alcohol?” I was astounded by the answer. The resounding answer was, “through social drinking!”

Wounded at the Theater by John Chrysostom (349-407 A.D.)

“If you see a shameless woman in the theater, who treads the stage with uncovered head and bold attitudes dressed in garments adorned with gold, flaunting her soft sensuality, singing immoral songs, throwing her limbs about in the dance, and making shameless speech — do you still dare to say nothing human happens to you then? Long after the theater is closed and everyone is gone away, those images still float before your soul — their words, their conduct, their glances, their walk, their positions, their excitation, their unchaste limbs — and as for you, you go home covered with a thousand wounds!

But not alone — the shameless woman goes with you — although not openly and visible but in your heart, and in your conscience, and there within you she kindles the Babylonian furnace in which the peace of your home, the purity of your heart, and the happiness of your marriage will be burnt up!”