

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

Evangelist: Charles Willis
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Know Your Bible: Answers

- 1. Dagon (1 Samuel 5:1-5)
2. Molech (1 Kings 11:7; Amos 5:26)
3. Baal (Judges 2:11; 1 Kings 18:19)
4. The brass serpent Moses raised up on a pole which was later worshiped by some of Israel (2 Kings 18:4)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Victor Studdard
Announcements: Tyler Blazek
Encouragement Talk: Josh Emerson
Opening Prayer: Jacob McAdams
Scripture Reading: Billy Lovell
1 Timothy 3:1-7
Song Leader: John Franks
Table Talk: Harper Flores
Contribution: Eddie Bowen
Helper: Kevin Buckner
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale
Helper: Lester Mabry
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Closing Prayer: Joel Jordan

Sunday Afternoons

Feb 18 POSTPONED: Singing At Nursing Home with Donald Hejl.
Feb 25 Parent Planned Youth Devotional
Mar 3 3PM Devotionals
Mar 10 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: John Franks
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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The Gospel Spark

During the cold months, I love to settle down in front of the fireplace. It's a good place for meditation on the things of God, and a good place to reflect on my life in His service. I once was sitting in this fashion when I noticed how a spark left from the fire and landed on a portion of the wood that wasn't burning. I hadn't seen that happen very often, so I kept watching. That spark never died out but kept burning and finally grew into a blaze that consumed the wood. I couldn't help but think that's how the gospel works.

As Christians we should produce sparks. We tell others about Christ just as they did in the early church when those who had been scattered went about preaching the word (Acts 8:4). We don't have to do much but interest the other person in the gospel. Their heart must be ready to accept the truth, just as the wood in the fireplace was ready to accept the spark. If the fundamentals have been taught, that Gospel Spark will not go out! It may sputter a little at first or smolder and produce a lot of smoke, but it will not go out. As time goes by that spark in the new Christian will grow to consume his entire life. He will be overcome with serving God. He will be used up in the service of the Lord.

But it doesn't end there. He will also give off sparks in hopes of producing a burning desire in others to serve the Lord. That's what Christianity is all about! The world benefits from our light (Matt. 5:14-15). They learn the warmth of Christian love. Our duty is to spread the love around, to create sparks in others that the love of Christ may spread to all who are eager to hear. Jesus said, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for the harvest (John 4:35). There are many in the world searching for the truth, but not many who are reaching it. I pray that we will fan the flame in our heart, that our love for God will grow to the point that we MUST reach out to those around us. Don't forget that just a little word, that Gospel Spark, can grow into a love for God that cannot be extinguished!

By Charles Willis

My Ebenezer

By Charles Willis

As Christians we are instructed to “sing with the spirit”...and sing “with the understanding also” (1 Cor. 14:15). It is easy to sing without the understanding, especially when words or references are used that we are not familiar with. Such is the case with #680 in our hymnal: O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing. The second verse beings:

Here I raise my Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
And I hope by Thy good pleasure Safely to arrive at home.

Most folks do not know what to make of “my Ebenezer”. The intent of this article is to give us the understanding so that we may sing the hymn pleasing unto God.

A Stated Need

The reference is from 1 Samuel 7:12, but we need to know the greater context of verses 1-14. After having the Ark of the Covenant stolen and returned from the Philistines (1 Sam.4-6), the people of God brought the ark to the house of Abinidab and “Israel lamented after the Lord” (1 Sam. 7:2).

Their lamentation was over the impending attack by the Philistines. Samuel directs the people to return to the Lord with all your heart, “remove the foreign gods...from among you” and serve God only. “He will deliver you from the Philistines” (1 Sam. 7:3). Verse 4 tells us the people did what Samuel instructed.

In obedience to Samuel, the people gathered together at Mizpah where Samuel said he would pray to God on their behalf. They said “we have sinned against the Lord” (v.6). Once they understood their sin they confessed and repented of their ways. This is the pattern often repeated among the Israelites.

A Substitution

When the Philistines learned that all of Israel was gathered at Mizpah they determined this would be the best time to attack them. The Israelites learned of their advance and grew afraid. They looked to Samuel to pray to God that He would save them.

Know Your Bible

Idols

1. What fish-shaped god of the Philistines was broken by the presence of the Ark of the Covenant?
2. What Ammonite god was worshiped with child sacrifice?
3. Name the Canaanite fertility god which many Israelites eventually worshiped.
4. What was Nehushtan?

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.



Samuel “took a suckling lamb and offered it for a whole burnt offering to the Lord” (v.9). God heard Samuel and answered. He “thundered with a great thunder on that day against the Philistines and confused them, so that they were routed before Israel” (v.10). The Israelites pursued them and struck them down.

A Remembrance

To commemorate the great deliverance of God on behalf of His people, Samuel “took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Ebenezer, saying ‘thus far the Lord has helped us’” (v.12).

The result of this decisive battle was a cessation of conflict with the Philistines all the days of Samuel, a return of the cities the Philistines had captured and “peace between Israel and the Ammonites” (v.14).

Meaning For Us

“Here I raise my Ebenezer” is what we sing. The Ebenezer was a stone signifying the help of God in the lives of Israel. So we are recognizing the help of God in our life. It was a stone of remembrance. When we sing this phrase it is to help us remember what God has done for us.

“Hither by Thy help I’ve come”. Where have we come? What have we achieved? The remainder of the hymn verse describes exactly what is meant:

“And I hope by Thy good pleasure Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand’ring from the fold of God;

He to rescue me from danger Interposed His precious blood.”

What Christian cannot state “Hither by Thy help I’ve come”? We must recognize that by God’s grace we have been saved. We have been delivered just as surely as the Israelites were delivered from the Philistines! As much as they wanted to remember the great deliverance by setting up the Ebenezer stone, so we should constantly be reminded of God’s love and care for us. These thoughts in the hymn help us confess our faults and desire to please Him who is the Fount of Every Blessing!



“Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old
he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6