

**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. The place of the skull (Matt. 27:33)
2. Teacher (John 1:38; 20:16)
3. Son of encouragement (Acts 4:36)
4. Confused (Genesis 11:9)
5. Red (Genesis 33:17)
6. Bitter (Exodus 15:23)

**This Week's Assignments & Events**

**Sunday Worship**

Greeter: Corwin Richardson  
Announcements: Ronnie Ramsey  
Encouragement Talk: Todd McAdams  
Opening Prayer: Haper Flores  
Scripture Reading: Eddie Bowen  
1 Timothy 3:8-16  
Song Leader: Ryan Haarmann  
Table Talk: John Franks  
Contribution: Jacob McAdams  
Helper: Brad Smith  
Fruit of Vine: Billy Lovell  
Helper: John Van Baale  
Helper: Jonathan Lovell  
Closing Prayer: Pete Galvan

**Sunday Afternoons**

Feb 25 Parent Planned Youth Devotional  
Mar 3 3PM Devotionals  
Mar 10 3PM Men's Meeting with Elders  
Mar 17 3PM Yard/Building Workday

**Wednesday Evening**

Song Leader: Billy Lovell  
Speaker: Tyler Blazek



# 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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## Deception & A Man's Word

*“It doesn't matter what they tell you, read the fine print!”* This was the advice of my father the first time I purchased a car and the first time I purchased a house. The sad truth of our society is that some folks will tell you anything you want to hear. Deceptions abound not only in business dealings but in personal relationships as well. The concept of a man's word as binding seems to have become a thing of the past.

### Family Deceptions

Genesis 27 records a sad example of a wife who uses her child to deceive her husband. It involves a strong sense of favoritism exhibited toward the children of the family. Rebekah loved Jacob, and Isaac loved Esau. Esau was to be given the blessing (the double inheritance and head of the family) from his father prior to his death. He told Esau to go kill a deer and cook it the way he liked it. This was a normal event and expected for the first-born son in that culture.

Rebekah concocts a scheme to deceive Isaac into giving the blessing to Jacob. She tells him to *“bring me two choice young goats from there, that I may prepare them as a savory dish for you father, such as he loves. Then you shall bring it to your father, that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death”* (v.9-10). What a terrible state for the family that chooses to deceive each other.

Jacob went right along with this plan. He understood the need to “feel” hairy in case his blind father wanted to confirm it was indeed Esau (Jacob was not hairy). He was concerned the deception would not work and *“I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing”* (v.12), but his mother said *“Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go...”*. When Jacob was attired in the deceptive robes and the goat skins were placed on his arms, he went in to Isaac and was asked, *“Who are you, my son?”* Jacob said to his father, *“I am Esau your firstborn”* (v.19). A while later Jacob says *“the voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau”* (v.22). *“Are you really my son Esau? And he said ‘I am’”* (v.24). Rebekah was not the only one to deceive her husband. She encouraged her child to sin by

lying to his father.

Families today also work to deceive each other. It ought not be this way – especially in a Christian household. Spouse’s hide money from each other claiming they do not have any or that the budget won’t allow a purchase when in fact it will. Children lie to parents (sin) in order to get something they desire. As a race, we haven’t progressed much since the time of Isaac and Rebekah. We fight these same problems and we still tend to show favoritism to our children. These only lead to more and more problems.

### A Man’s Word

Returning to the text of Genesis 27 we learn that Isaac went forward, being deceived, and granted the blessing of the firstborn upon his son Jacob (v.27-29). Some time later his son Esau came in with the prepared venison seeking his father’s blessing. *“Isaac trembles violently, and said, who was he then that hunted game and brought it to me, so that I ate of all of it before you came, and blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed. . . Behold I have made him your master, and all his relatives I have given to him as servants; and with grain and new wine I have sustained him. Now as for you then, what can I do, my son?”* (v.33-37).

Though deceived, his blessing had been given and it would not be revoked. There was no going back once his word had been given. What a lesson for us when we simply want to say ‘wait a minute, I was deceived’. We want to change the results to what we intended, even though our word was given. A person of character must respect his own words and abide by his promises. Isaac dealt with Jacob his son in chapter 28 in a loving manner, even though he had been deceived. Surely he was hurt and angry – but his word had been given.

### Conclusion

Families that deceive each other will have long-lasting consequences of strife. Instead of the attitude of Rebekah, we all need the truthful, honest attitude of Isaac whose word was always kept. This is the one who will be respected and honored. Strong lessons for struggling families of today.

by Charles Willis

## Know Your Bible

How Does  
Scripture  
Translate Itself?  
Tell the meaning  
of the following  
words.

1. Golgotha
2. Rabboni or Rabbi
3. Barnabus
4. Babel
5. Edom
6. Marah

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.



## Why Do You Come To Church Services?

by Charles Willis

Many today will answer this question by saying “I like the people” or “I like the speaker.” These have equated the worship service to a social gathering. The truth being taught (or not taught) is not what’s as important as the one doing the speaking. The emphasis is placed on the people and not God and His word.

Others in our society will say “it’s entertaining. It’s better for me than television.” Scripture says we are to edify one another, and that is something we should expect from gathering with saints - but that’s not entertaining. Everything else that takes place in a worship assembly is about giving to God - my praise, my attention to His word, my remembrance of His Son, my returning some of how God has blessed me. To consider the worship assembly as entertainment is to totally miss the point!

Some will say “it is a habit,” or “I’ve been going to this church for 43 years.” There’s not an investigation of God’s word, just a reliance on regular attendance. There’s no reason to change. “I’m happy” where I’m going. Attending the assembly can be a good habit, but if habit is all there is - that’s a poor reason to attend the assembling.

Perhaps the most heard reason, especially in the church, is “God expects me to be there” or “God commands it.” We’re not to forsake the assembling of the saints (Heb. 10:25), and we are to *“be an example of the believers...in faith”* (1 Timothy 4:12). This is all very true. When God has commanded, we need to listen and obey. We demonstrate our love for God by our obedience. But realize this answer merely reflects an obligation or a duty to attend the assembling. It that what we really feel? I would suggest if our only reason for attending the assembling of the saints is out of duty, then we are also missing the point.

I don’t know about you, but I attend the worship assembling because I love God with all my heart (Matt. 22:37). I want to please Him! I want to sing praises and pray to Him. Mark 12:31-33 indicates that loving God is more important than rituals! *“We love Him because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:19). Love for God underlies all we do as a Christian. That should be the motivating reason why we all attend the worship of the Lord.