

**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. Peter (Acts 10:34)
2. Jesus (Acts 9:5)
3. Goliath (1 Samuel 17:43)
4. Abraham (Genesis 18:23)
5. Pilate (Luke 23:4)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Eddie Bowen
Announcements: Brad Smith
Encouragement Talk: Jacob McAdams
Opening Prayer:
Scripture Reading: Corwin Richardson
1 Timothy 5:17-25
Song Leader: Ryan Haarmann
Table Talk: Harper Flores
Contribution: Arturo Orozco
Helper: Kevin Buckner
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale
Helper: Sandon Spyker
Helper: Lester Mabry
Closing Prayer: Billy Lovell

Sunday Afternoons

Mar 24 Nothing
Mar 31 Nothing
Apr 7 3PM Group Visitation (meet & go)
Apr 14 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Harper Flores
Speaker: John Van Baale



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 21
Number 12
March 24, 2024

Gospel or Gimmickry?

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to fables” (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

These verses clearly indicate that there are times when gospel preaching is in season and out of season. History indicates the same. In the first century in most places it was in season; in the middle ages it was out of season. There was a thrilling season for the gospel in middle America in the early nineteenth century, while at the same time it was largely out of season in France and Europe.

In our own lifetime, we have seen the same situation change. This writer remembers days in Chattanooga when non-Christians attended meetings in large numbers for no other reason than to hear the gospel, and ten or twenty baptisms were not uncommon in such a meeting. Simple gospel preaching does not now seem to have such drawing power.

What are we to do when gospel preaching is out of season; when people are more interested in education, entertainment, recreation, and social activities than they are in preaching; when the wisdom of the world has more appeal than the wisdom of God?

COMMON ANSWERS

“You have to take people where they are,” we are told. “We have to give them what they want to attract attention. Then we can reach them with the gospel.” On this basis, all kinds of gimmicks are used to entice the worldly. Many churches have turned into little more than community centers and social clubs. They are more involved with ball teams and scout troops than with Bible teaching. The highways are crowded with their buses taking various age groups to every kind of amusement area in the country from Disney World to Lake Wannepesauka. Their advertising reads for all the world like a circus flyer, offering prizes, free gifts, and fun. Often, no promise is made of anything spiritual at all.

Others realizing that the gospel “is the power of God unto salvation” limit their activities more to preaching. But even here, appeal is still to the worldly tastes of our generation. If possible,

preachers are obtained who have made a big reputation in sports, in entertainment, or in government. Otherwise, great emphasis is given in advertising to the educational attainments of the speaker or to his gifts as a “dynamic, powerful, eloquent” speaker.

GOD’S WAY

The problems of disinterested people is not new. It existed in some places even in the first century. Paul said it existed in Corinth. *“For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness”* (1 Cor. 1:22,23).

Paul had the power to offer signs to the Jews and the knowledge to compete with the Greeks in worldly wisdom. The philosophy described above would have suggested advertisement of a lecture on “The Judaistic Philosophy in the Roman World.” Obtaining his audience with this, he could then slip in a little about Jesus and the cross. But this was not Paul’s approach, as he told us: *“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”* (1 Cor. 2:2). Human philosophy and human wisdom had no place in Paul’s plan for saving the lost in Corinth.

Preaching only the gospel, of course, Paul could have announced himself as “Dr. Paul, graduate of the University of Gamaliel, noted author, world traveler, inspired and dynamic lecturer.” Rather, he says, *“And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God...I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God”* (1 Cor. 2:1,3-5).

Worldly appeals simply cannot save lost men. And to attach them to the gospel is to cheapen the good news of Jesus Christ. By such appeals we may increase numbers and even “make waves,” but such individuals in the local church are liabilities rather than assets. As materials in God’s building they are classified as “wood, hay, and straw.” Paul warns again building such material into the church: *“According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it...Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work”* (1 Cor. 3: 10,12,13).

By Sewell Hall, Gospel Power, Vol. VIII, No. 51, Dec. 30, 2001.

Know Your Bible

Who Said It?

1. I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality...
2. It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks (KJ)
3. Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?
4. Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?
5. I find no guilt in this man.

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.



The Importance Of Doctrine

by Charles Willis

The New Testament word “doctrine” means “teaching, instruction” (Thayer’s Lexicon). Scripture tells us what doctrine we should follow. We are not free to teach whatever we want. *“If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing”* (1 Timothy 6:3-4). *“Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God”* (2 John 9). As a Christian we must remain in the doctrine of Christ, and we must teach the doctrine of Christ.

Acts 2:42 says the Christians *“were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching”* (which is *“apostles’ doctrine”* in the King James translation). In 1 John 4:6 the apostle John refers to all the apostles saying, *“We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”* The doctrine of the apostles was the doctrine of Christ, Paul even says *“we are ambassadors for Christ”* (1 Corinthians 5:20). *“If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame”* (2 Thessalonians 3:14). We must listen to the apostles doctrine and follow it.

What is to be taught is set by Christ and the Apostles. Anything else, anything contrary, anything new is called a *“strange doctrine”* (1 Timothy 1:3), *“doctrine of demons”* (1 Timothy 1:4), and *“the precepts of men”* (Matthew 15:9). “Winds of doctrine” are always being pushed by men and those who are babes in Christ can be *“carried about”* by these teaching (Ephesians 4:14). So the passage says *“we are no longer to be children...grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ”* (Ephesians 4:14-15). Not knowing the doctrine of Christ (and the Apostles) is dangerous for any Christian for we can be easily led into error.

What is needed by every person is *“sound doctrine”* (1 Timothy 4:6). “Sound” refers to “healthy” doctrine - the teaching that brings spiritual good health. The preacher Titus was instructed by Paul to *“speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine”* (Titus 2:1) and show yourself to be an example *“with purity in doctrine”* (Titus 2:7). Elders are to *“exhort in sound doctrine”* (Titus 1:9).

Sadly, *“the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires”* (2 Timothy 4:3). We live in such a time when churches all around us teach whatever they want and there is no adherence to the doctrine of Christ and His apostles. Many believe there is no standard of authority in teaching, just believe whatever you want, pick and choose what to believe. Most who visit a congregation are “looking” for a church they can agree with instead of a church that agrees with the doctrine of Christ!

You are urged to study and know the doctrine of Christ and hold firmly to it. Without it, we do not have God (2 John 9).