

**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. Pilate (Mark 15:9)
2. Jonah (3:4)
3. Centurion at the crucifixion (Luke 23:47)
4. Delilah (Judges 16:20)
5. David (1 Samuel 26:11)
6. Isaiah (6:8)

**This Week's Assignments & Events**

**Sunday Worship**

Greeter: Corwin Richardson  
Announcements: John Franks  
Encouragement Talk: Todd McAdams  
Opening Prayer: Josh Emerson  
Scripture Reading: Eddie Bowen  
2 Timothy 1:12-18  
Song Leader: Ryan Haarmann  
Table Talk: Brad Smith  
Contribution: Tyler Blazek  
Helper: Theo Edge  
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale  
Helper: Tony Gross  
Helper: Billy Lovell  
Closing Prayer: Pete Galvan

**Sunday Afternoons**

Apr 21 Parent Planned Youth Devotional  
Apr 28 3PM Classroom Quarter Change  
May 5 3PM Men's Meeting  
May 12 Nothing

**Wednesday Evening**

Song Leader: John Franks  
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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## 9:00 9:15 9:30 SQUEEZING GOD IN 9:45 10:00 10:15

Life just seems to get busier and busier. We can't ever seem to get caught up on all the things we want to accomplish, and those things that receive priority status are generally immediate problems that must be fixed today. We tend to schedule every waking moment to maximize what we can accomplish. Though we have almost as much leisure time as in the days of the Roman Empire, we still seem to run out of time. I just wonder if the Christians in the first century had the same problem we do in trying to squeeze God into our schedule? They were equally busy living life, and probably had to work much harder at providing the daily necessities than we do. We live in an age of comfort, but most are so busy we are not comfortable.

In this environment we feel really good about squeezing God into our schedule. We feel really good inside when we have managed to separate ourselves from everyone else for just a few moments in order to pray to our Father! Sadly, some don't even do this. They choose instead to go through life without prayer. I understand the principle that some prayer is better than no prayer; however, does the content, frequency, and sincerity of our prayers please God? Do we pray because we desire to pray, or are we just squeezing God in?

We also tend to feel really good about ourselves when we arrange our schedule to be at the assemblies of the Lord's saints. We may often arrive exhausted, tired, and in a poor frame of mind - but we are there. I agree with the idea that being at the assemblies is better than missing (Hebrews 10:25), but is God pleased with our attitude, frame of mind, and worship; or, does He see us offering our left-overs as we squeeze Him into our life? We could similarly discuss Bible reading, Bible study, benevolence, teaching others, and many other topics from the position of squeezing them in. Is God really pleased when that's our attitude?

At other times we feel really bad about squeezing God in. There are times we really know how poor our efforts have been in some spiritual matter, and understand we

need to do better, we should do better, and we CAN do better. There are times when we are not satisfied with our efforts at serving God. This is usually due to a realization of God's word about commitment! We see the failings in our self, and we sorrow over our attitude. At times we sorrow to the point of desiring to do more, but we don't respond to the desire. We say instead that we can't seem to find the time. Many in the Lord's church are quick to refute false doctrine (especially in regard to benevolence, and teaching the lost), but instead of doing what we can, we do nothing. We say we don't know how to go about it, I don't know anyone in need, or I'm too busy. We feel bad about squeezing God in, but not bad enough to change.

Both of these attitudes present a problem. Serving God can't be squeezed into our life! Jesus said, *"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me"* (Matthew 16:24). There is no hint of squeezing God in! In response to the question "which is the greatest commandment in the law" Jesus responded, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind"* (Matthew 22:37). Squeezing God into our life is not what it means to be a Christian - in fact that attitude is far removed from Christianity. We are to be Christ-like! That means in every possible way we are trying to be like Jesus - in thought, behavior, and attitude. Jesus involved God in His life. How many of us believe Jesus squeezed God into His life? So why do we think squeezing God into ours is pleasing to Him? Most of the "squeeze" is self-induced. I urge all Christians to serve God completely recognizing our true commitment!

Charles Willis

*"Let us not grow weary in well doing"* (Galatians 6:9)

1. Teaching Others
2. Edifying The Saints
3. Serving God

## **Know Your Bible**

### **Who Said It?**

1. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?
2. Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown
3. Certainly this was a righteous man.
4. The Philistines are upon you, Samson.
5. The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed
6. Here am I, send me.

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.



## **A Lesson From Hosea**

Charles Willis

The prophet Hosea brought the message of God to the northern nation of Israel just before they were taken into the Assyrian captivity. Much of what they did which displeased God is specifically named. We learn a lot about what displeased God which we should apply to ourselves.

*"Listen to the word of the Lord, O sons of Israel, For the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no faithfulness or kindness Or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed"* (Hosea 4:1-2). Sound similar to what we see in our nation and communities? While we cannot change the community or nation we live in, we are challenged to examine our own heart. Do we have faithfulness, kindness and knowledge of God?

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children"* (Hosea 4:6). If we do not have knowledge it is because we have rejected it. God has told us how to please and serve Him. We are to *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). It is never God's fault if we do not know. And some who know have "forgotten" God's law. They have turned against it and choose to not follow it. God's attitude is expressed in saying He will reject and forget us if we do not keep the covenant with Him.

Ephraim was the capital tribe of the northern nation of Israel. Many times the nation is referred to as Ephraim. *"Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; Ephraim has become a cake not turned. Strangers devour his strength, Yet he does not know it; Gray hairs also are sprinkled on him, Yet he does not know it. Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, Yet they have not returned to the Lord their God, Nor have they sought Him, for all this. So Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense"* (Hosea 7:8-11). Do we hear the warning in this passage for us? Do we mix ourselves with the nations around us - allowing the evil influence to win in our heart? Are we like the unturned cake - the pancake we pay no attention to so that it remains doughy on the surface and burned black on the bottom? Can we not see the problems in our own life if we have mixed with the nations around us? Can we not see how we grow old (with gray hairs) unless we pay no attention?

*"Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the nations! For you have played the harlot, forsaking your God"* (Hosea 9:1). Spiritual adultery is the accusation because they broke the covenant with God and worshiped idols. We also can be guilty in our rebellion against God. Here the warning for us in Hosea 8:13 - God *"will remember their iniquity, And punish them for their sins."*

You are encouraged to do some reading in Hosea. It is very similar to the society we live in, with many of the same mind sets as our neighbors. Let us determine to learn from their poor choices and not forget the Law of our God!