

**New Caney  
Church of Christ**

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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***

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**Know Your Bible: Answers**

1. Achan (Joshua 7:21)
2. David (1 Samuel 17:54)
3. The Tabernacle (Exodus 26:1-4)
4. The Israelites (Exodus 33:10)
5. The woman in the Son of Solomon (1:5)



**This Week's Assignments & Events**

**Sunday Worship**

Greeter: Lester Mabry  
Announcements: Eddie Bowen  
Encouragement Talk: Jayson Richardson  
Opening Prayer: Kevin Buckner  
Scripture Reading: Casey Thomas  
Luke 3:21-30  
Song Leader: John Franks  
Table Talk: Kevin Buckner  
Contribution: Billy Lovell  
Helper: John Van Baale  
Fruit of Vine: Billy Scherry  
Helper: Tyler Blazek  
Helper: Joel Jordan  
Closing Prayer: Josh Emerson

**Sunday Afternoons**

Nov 24 Nothing  
Dec 1 Nothing  
Dec 8 3PM Encouragement (cards & calls)  
Dec 15 Nothing

**Wednesday Evening**

Song Leader: Charles Willis  
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

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## Holding Firm To Traditions

God created us as creatures of habits. We like to do things the same way, in the same sequence, at the same time every day. We sometimes call it a “morning routine,” or a “methodology” in cooking. Centuries after Christ rose from the dead it is easy for us to become entrenched in our religious traditions.

There are lessons we can learn from the attitudes of the Pharisees. Jesus told them in Mark 7:8-13 “*Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men. He was also saying to them, ‘You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, is to be put to death’; 11 but you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),’ you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.’*” What made their tradition wrong was it set aside and invalidated the word of God. They elevated tradition to be more important than God’s word.

The Catholic church believes the ordained Bishops are modern apostles who receive by inspiration the will of God. “Therefore both sacred Tradition and sacred Scripture are to be accepted and venerated with the same devotion and reverence” (www.catholic.com/tract/scripture-and-tradition). It is not difficult to trace changes in the traditions of the Catholic Church. Changes of practice and teaching. They have invalidated the word of God by their traditions.

By inspiration Paul teaches the same principle that Jesus taught about the Pharisees. A tradition cannot violate the revealed Word of God. “*Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you*” (1 Corinthians 11:2). “*So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us*” (2 Thessalonians 2:15). The word of mouth or letter from an apostle was authoritative. The traditions they

held firmly to was what the Apostle taught them. They were new traditions (for Jews and Gentiles) that were different than what they had know before becoming a Christian. This is the same concept as what Paul writes about in 1 Corinthians 15:1–2 *“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.”*

An Elder must be a man who is *“holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict”* (Titus 1:9). The “teaching” of the “faithful word” is the standard for “sound doctrine.” Any tradition we establish or maintain must agree with the “faithful word” of “sound doctrine.” We must also refute anyone who would establish or maintain a tradition that invalidates the Word of God. *“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ”* (Colossians 2:8).

There are many traditions we maintain in the congregation when we assemble, such as: the time of our assembling, the sequence of our worship assembly, the length and number of prayers, song leaders are a tradition as are hymnals, the length of a sermon, when to stand or sit. Most of us even have a tradition of where we sit in the building every time we gather. There is nothing wrong with a tradition that does not invalidate the word of God. Any of these traditions can be changed or stopped. New traditions can be added, as long as we hold firmly to the “traditions” which the apostles and other inspired men handed down to us (the written Word of God). Paul wrote, *“the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment”* (1 Corinthians 14:37). We cannot set aside anything the Lord has commanded, nor invalidate it by our tradition.

In the last 25 years many congregations have changed some of their traditions, as we have in New Caney. We are wise to always examine the Word of God to be certain we are holding firmly to the traditions given to us.

By Charles Willis

## ***Know Your Bible***

### **Tents**

1. Who took spoil from Jericho and buried it in his tent?
2. Who stored Goliath’s armor in his tent?
3. What tent was made according to God’s specifications?
4. Who lived in tents in the wilderness of Sin?
5. Who compares her dark skin to the blackness of the “tents of Kedar”?

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.



## ***Who Do We Honor?***

*“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be **honor** and glory forever and ever. Amen”* (1 Timothy 1:17). *“To Him be **honor** and eternal dominion!”* (1 Timothy 6:16). *“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and **honor** and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created”* (Revelation 4:11).

*“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and **honor** and glory and blessing”*  
(Revelations 5:12)

***“Honor your father and mother”***  
(Matthew 19:19)

*“Marriage is to be held in **honor** among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge”*  
(Hebrews 13:4)

***“Honor widows who are widows indeed”***  
(1 Timothy 5:3)

*“The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double **honor**, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching”*  
(1 Timothy 5:17)

*“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in **honor**”*  
(Romans 12:10)

***“Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, **honor** the king”***  
(1 Peter 2:17)