

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. Paul (Acts 9:25)
2. Ezekiel (42:20)
3. Jericho (Joshua 6:20)
4. Saul (1 Samuel 19:10)
5. Nehemiah (1:3-4)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Truett Blazek
Announcements: Tyler Blazek
Encouragement Talk: John Van Baale
Opening Prayer: Billy Lovell
Scripture Reading: Gary Tuttle
Luke 2:41-52
Song Leader: Kevin Buckner
Table Talk: Arturo Orozco
Contribution: John Farnks
Helper: Corwin Richardson
Fruit of Vine: Sandon Spyker
Helper: Casey Thomas
Helper: Billy Scherry
Closing Prayer: Scott McDearman

Sunday Afternoons

Nov 3 3PM Devotionals
Nov 10 Nothing
Nov 17 3PM Marriage Tune-Up
Nov 24 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Corwin Richardson
Speaker: Arturo Orozco



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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Distortions Of The Gospel

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ (Galatians 1:6-10).

The word distort (in verse 7) in many English translations is pervert, and few use the word change. The word means: to turn across, that is, transmute or (figuratively) corrupt (Strong's Concordance). What exactly was being taught in Galatia that was a distortion that Paul is addressing?

Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you (Galatians 5:2-8).

Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. (Galatians 6:12-15).

In both passages Paul (by inspiration) affirms circumcision no longer means anything. It was a requirement in the Law of Moses but is not for those who are in Christ. If they accepted this false teaching on circumcision they were not following the truth (5:7) and are to walk by

this rule" (6:16). This was a distortion, perversion, change of the gospel that is condemned strongly at the beginning of Galatians 1.

This was one of a few distortions of the gospel being taught in the first century. Men continue to teach distortions, and they grow ever greater over time if they are accepted. If one error is accepted, then (over time) another will be accepted, and then another. A new generation will rise up that does not know the truth of God's Law and will continue to practice what they have learned (from men) and will also accept new distortions of the truth. This is why we can look at "Christian" religion in the world today and see so much variety and difference in what people believe. Most have accepted a distortion as truth. Notice in 2 Peter 3:16 *"the untaught and unstable distort"* (the writing of Paul), *"as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction."* Two apostles by inspiration declare the distorting of Scripture leads to being accursed and destroyed by God.

So we as Christians are warned strongly to *"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) The word "doctrine" means "teaching." There is one truth which God has revealed. The teaching of Christ (through Him and from His inspired apostles) cannot be changed. We must adhere completely to what God has said. *"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; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son"* (2 John 1:9).

How will we know if a distortion of the gospel is being taught? We cannot rely on men. We must rely on the words of Christ. We must rely on the inspired written word. If it cannot be found in Scripture, we cannot believe it or practice it.

"But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). *"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"* (1 Corinthians 15:1-2).

By Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Walls

1. Who escaped through the wall of Damascus by being let down in a basket?
2. What prophet measured the wall of the temple district?
3. What city was famous for its fallen walls?
4. Who stuck his spear in the wall when it failed to hit its intended target (David)?
5. What wine steward sat down and wept when he learned the walls of Jerusalem had not been rebuilt?

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.



An Intersting Little Test

by David Roper

Below are three phrases, more or less familiar. Before you go any further, I would like for to read them loudly (in your mind).

PARIS
IN THE
THE SPRING

A BIRD
IN THE
THE HAND

ONCE
IN A
A LIFETIME

Did you read them loudly in your mind? Now, unless you are a very unusual person (or very suspicious) **YOU READ THEM ALL WRONG**. Did you notice that the first two have two "the's" and the last one has two "A's"?

But what is the point, you say? I've given you this test to illustrate the danger of a pre-conceived ideas. You read the phrases as you did because you thought you knew what they said before you read them.

Now answer one of the nagging questions people ask: "How can two people read the same passage of Scripture and come up with two different meanings?" No doubt there might be many factors, but the most common is that one or both had their minds made up before they read the passage as to what it was going to say.

One of the most terrifying passages in the Bible is in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, which says that is we are not seeking the truth, God will send us a strong delusion that we will sincerely believe a lie, and will be lost.

The matter of pre-conceived ideas helps explain how it is that good, honest people can read passages like Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, etc. and still believe that baptism is non-essential to salvation. It also helps to explain how some members of the church can read Hebrews 10:25 and still think that attendance to the assembling of the saints is not essential. **NONE** are immune from the malady of reading with pre-conceived ideas. May God help us then to be truth-seekers, and to always ask ourselves, *"Is this really what God is saying here?" - Or is it simply what I want the passage to say?*

Marriage Tune-Up

Sunday, November 17th at 3PM

A 90 minute class with discussion for married couples of all ages.
Come and consider what God has revealed
about how we are to live in a marriage relationship.