

**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. Belshazzar (Daniel 5)
2. Samson (Judges 14:10-14)
3. Simon (Luke 7:36-50)
4. Herod (Mark 6:21)
5. David (1 Chronicles 12:29)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Gary Tuttle
Announcements: Eddie Bowen
Encouragement Talk: Charles Willis
Opening Prayer: John Van Baale
Scripture Reading: Truett Blazek
Luke 7:18-23
Song Leader: Kevin Buckner
Table Talk: Arturo Orozco
Contribution: Josh Emerson
Helper: Corwin Richardson
Fruit of Vine: John Franks
Helper: Billy Sherry
Helper: Aaron Heald
Closing Prayer: Scott McDearman

Sunday Afternoons

Mar 2 3PM Devotionals
Mar 9 Nothing
Mar 16 3PM Yard Work Day
Mar 23 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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Convenient Faith

Imagine a not-so-distant future for America. Foreign terrorists have managed to detonate nuclear explosions in 12 major American cities. Millions are dead. The economy has failed, meaning money is worthless. Barter and trade are the only means of gaining anything. The power grid has been down for 4 months and there is no indication it will be repaired. All phone service stopped when the bombs went off. The national government ceased to exist in any practical form. Local authorities have generally declared martial law. Senseless killings are everywhere, starvation is common, death due to weather is all too real. Persecution and prejudices have become the normal operating procedure across the land. Slavery has been reborn. Most everyone is hungry and scared.

What would happen to your faith in such a situation? Would it grow, shrink, fade, disappear? We have it so good in our country we sometimes fail to remember how difficult it was in the first century when the church began. Persecutions were everywhere because of their faith. Destruction of homes, businesses, even the city of Jerusalem were a direct result of their teaching about Christ. Families were torn apart, some thrown in prisons, some taken into slavery, some killed. Any right-thinking individual alive at the time would have been scared of the consequences of claiming to be a Christian. It was in that environment that the faith of people grew and the church became established and rose to dominate the religions of the world. How would our current faith compare with the faith of those first Christians?

We face real assaults in our country today, though not from what we now call terrorists. Abortion, drugs and alcohol abuse, divorce, pornography, financial frauds – all of these make God-fearing individuals want to shake their heads and think ‘things are getting worse and worse’. I’m certain the first century Christians had thoughts like that as well.

The point of this article is: do we have real faith, or merely convenient faith? It's easy to be a Christian in America today compared with the first century Christians. It is convenient to have faith in that we have a community of saints to be a part of, we "fit in" with the average "Christian" American image, but many are not living the Christian life. It seems for some faith is merely a convenience that will likely be tossed aside when it becomes a hindrance or the cause of persecution.

James 4:17 says *"faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."* We must be those who live the Christian life, who are at work doing God's will. I fear many American Christians would leave the faith if Jesus sent us a message like He sent to the church in Smyrna: *"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* (Rev. 2:10). It is during the difficult times that our faith is tested. *"The testing of your faith produces endurance"* (James 1:3), IF we maintain our faith during the trial. Faith that is merely on the surface, that has no deep roots into the heart, is a faith that will be shrugged off in the face of trial. The example of the first century Christians is that our faith needs to be real, and not merely convenient. In fact, real faith will be inconvenient. It will interfere with other things we might want to do. It will motivate us to do things for God that we have not done before. Spiritual growth is not convenient, but it is a sign of faithfulness!

Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Feasts

1. What king had a feast where a mysterious hand wrote on the wall?
2. Who told a bizarre riddle at his wedding feast?
3. What Pharisee had a feast that Jesus attended?
4. What ruler threw a lavish feast where his wife's daughter danced?
5. Who was given a three day feast when he began to reign over all of Israel?

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.



Marriage Is God Approved



"Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4)

"Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them" (Col. 3:18-19)

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (Eph. 5:31)

"So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself" (Eph. 5:28)

"The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does" (1 Cor. 7:4)

"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Mark 10:9)

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Matt. 19:6)

"He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord" (Prov. 18:22)

"Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him" (Gen. 2:18)

MARRIAGE IS HONORABLE

WIVES ARE TO SUBMIT

HUSBAND TO CLEAVE TO WIFE

HUSBAND TO LOVE WIFE

BODIES BELONG TO EACH OTHER

JOINED TOGETHER BY GOD

NOT TO BE PUT ASUNDER

WIFE IS A GOOD THING

WIFE TO BE A HELP MEET

It was for FREEDOM that Christ set us free

THEREFORE KEEP STANDING FIRM

Galatians 5:1

and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery