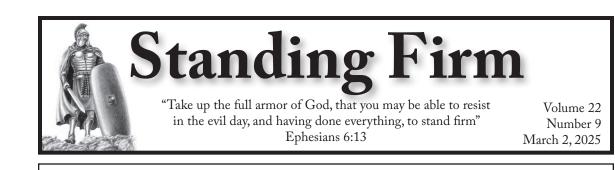
Family Matters

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. Belshazzar (Daniel 5) Samson (Judges 14:10–14) Simon (Luke 78:36–50) 4. Herod (Mark 6:21) 5. David (1 Chronicles 12:29)

This Week's Assignments & Events

| Sunday Worship | | S | Sunday Afternoons | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------|---|--|
| Greeter: | Gary Tuttle | Mar 2 | 3PM Devotionals | |
| Announcements: | Eddie Bowen | | | |
| Encouragement Talk: | Charles Willis | Mar 9 | Nothing | |
| Opening Prayer: | - | Ivial 9 | | |
| Scripture Reading: | Truett Blazek | | | |
| | Luke 7:18–23 | Mar 16 | 3PM Yard Work Day | |
| | Kevin Buckner | | | |
| | Arturo Orozco | Mar 23 | Nothing | |
| | Josh Emerson | 101a1 23 | | |
| 1 | Corwin Richardson | | | |
| Fruit of Vine: | | V | Wednesday Evening Song Leader: Corwin Richardson Speaker: Arturo Orozco | |
| 1 | Billy Sherry | Song | | |
| 1 | Aaron Heald | : | | |
| Closing Prayer: | Scott McDearman | | | |



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

Answers On Back



Galatians 5:1

THEREFORE KEEP STANDING FIRM

and do not be subject again to a voke of slavery Know Your **Bible**

Feasts

- 1. What king had a feast where a mysterious hand wrote on the wall?
- 2. Who told a bizzare 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?

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)