

**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. Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 4:4)
2. Bartimaeus (Matthew 20:34)
3. Isaac (Genesis 27:1)
4. Samson (Judges 16:21)
5. Mud (John 9:1-7)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Gary Tuttle
Announcements: John Van Baale
Encouragement Talk: Kevin Buckner
Opening Prayer: Josh Emerson
Scripture Reading: Arturo Orozco
Luke 8:22-25
Song Leader: John Franks
Table Talk: Sandon Spyker
Contribution: Eddie Bowen
Helper: Casey Thomas
Fruit of Vine: Tyler Blazek
Helper: Truett Blazek
Helper: Aaron Heald
Closing Prayer: Billy Lovell

Sunday Afternoons

Apr 13 Nothing
Apr 20 Nothing
Apr 27 3PM Classroom Quarter Change
May 4 3PM Devotionals

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Kevin Buckner
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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Retain The Standard Of Sound Words

Those of us in the older half of the population and who have been members of the church for a long time grew up listening to preachers emphasize the need for “sound doctrine.” We heard a steady diet of sermons on the distinctiveness of the New Testament church, Bible authority, and the work, worship, and organization of the church. Great emphasis was placed upon the first principles of the gospel.

Where I grew up, there was no shortage of sermons that made specific application to personal righteousness. Sermons on modest dress, fleeing fornication, using pure speech (including avoiding euphemisms), and the dangers of worldliness were every-Sunday fare. We were taught to be good examples at work, at home, and at play. When and where you slipped out of line there seemed to always be someone who loved you enough to say something to you. Their loving rebuke stung a little, but it caused you to think, resolve to change, and do better.

Bible classes drilled kids in the basics of the Bible. We learned the books of the Bible and the distinction between the covenants at an early age. Our teachers expected us to come to Bible study with lessons prepared and ready to recite information about Bible characters, events, and topics. Parents usually made it happen.

This kind of thing is still taking place in a lot churches I know. There are many dedicated preachers whose sermons possess that “ole Jerusalem gospel” ring. I know Bible teachers who work long hours to present Bible stories in the most effective way possible. Only the most naive, however, refuse to recognize that things are changing — and not for the better. Though most folks today possess a greater level of education than many of our predecessors, their Bibles go unread and their knowledge of spiritual things is weak or absent altogether. Feelings and subjective religion have captured the imagination of many because they have little grasp of the need for Bible authority (Colossians 3:17). Some have ridiculed our demand for book, chapter, and verse in all that we do, calling it a patternistic “plague” which is “foul and diseased.” In answer, I respond with Paul’s instruction to Timothy, “*Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus*” (2 Timothy 1:13). Perhaps it would do good for us to reflect upon this statement for a moment.

“Sound Words”

Someone once said that a word is a “vehicle upon which a thought rides.” Words uttered by the human voice give expression to concepts or ideas. The thoughts of God are expressed to us through words he has chosen (1 Corinthians 2:12-13) and are recorded for us in Scripture. Thus, they are inspired words (2 Timothy 3:16-17). They are:

Important. By them our faith can rest, not in the wisdom, philosophies, and feelings of men, but in

the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Profitable. Paul said they were “... *profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Moses reminded Israel that God’s statutes were “*for our good always*” and commanded them to be observed (Deuteronomy 6:24-25).

Understandable. Admittedly, some concepts in Scripture are hard to understand (2 Peter 3:18). But this is not the case most of the time. Paul said we could understand merely by reading (Ephesians 3:4).

Authoritative. The words of Jesus will judge us (John 12:48). Paul wanted us to know that what he wrote was the “*Lord’s commandment*” (1 Corinthians 14:37), not his suggestions or mere sentimental pleadings. We must do all in the name of the Lord (Colossians 3:17).

Unalterable. When we speak, we are to speak as the very mouthpiece of God (1 Peter 4:11), without addition or subtraction (Deuteronomy 4:2; Joshua 1:7-9; Revelation 22:18-19). All teachers and preachers need to take this into account (James 3:10).

“Sound Words”

Sound is from the same Greek word from which we get our English word “hygiene” and literally means to be in good physical health. Here it is used in the figurative sense of being free from error or correct.

Sound teaching is teaching that is healthy and nutritious. Most everyone recognizes the need for a healthy diet for our physical body, even if we do neglect it at times. How much more so our spirit! Spiritual survival depends upon good spiritual nourishment. We dare not neglect it. Yet many folks today think they can survive on spiritual “junk” food, and just as little of that as possible. An older preacher once said, “Sermonettes preached by preacherettes will produce Christianettes” — food for thought.

“Retain the Standard of Sound Words”

God’s word is our standard or pattern for living. A standard is a basis of comparison. Every woman who has made the attempt to sew a garment knows the importance of following the pattern. Every man who has made the attempt to build knows the importance of following a blueprint. Even our children learn early of the need to color all the picture, inside the lines, or paint by number. It’s the same principle.

It is impossible to overstate the case. Only by sound teaching can we develop wholesome, healthy spiritual lives – either individually or collectively. Therefore, when some loving brother or sister comes alongside you to encourage you, whether in standard of worship or pattern of life application (modest dress, speech, worldliness, et al.), don’t think that this is merely some “church of Christ doctrine.” They are encouraging you to “retain the standard of sound words” that you might be pleasing to God and go to heaven when you die.

by Jim Deason

Know Your Bible

Physically III

1. What grandson of Saul was crippled in both feet?
2. What blind man of Jericho did Jesus heal?
3. What patriarch became so blind he could not tell his boys apart?
4. What judge was blinded by the Philistines?
5. What did JESUS put on the eyes of a blind man at the pool of Siloam?

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.



Backsliding

by Charles Willis

Do you remember climbing the slide when you were a kid? I mean ignoring the ladder, and climbing up the incline? I remember slipping backward as I tried to go up. It was hard work to keep moving up the slope and so easy to give up and just slide down.

It’s the same for living the Christian life. The upward call of God in Christ Jesus requires a continuous effort. Scripture refers to this as a war (Rom. 7:23), a fight (2 Tim. 4:7), and a struggle (Eph. 6:12). We must constantly be alert, sober and watchful that we do not slide backward by allowing ourselves to participate in sin. We sometimes feel it would be easier to just give up and slide backward – and some do.

Backsliding is a word found in Scripture. Hosea 11:7 says “*My people are bent toward backsliding*” (in the King James). The understanding is helped by the New American Standard translation which says, “*My people are bent on turning*”. Strong’s definition of the Hebrew for “backsliding” means “apostasy.” You see when we choose to not move forward and begin to move backward we are moving away from God. It is a return to the world even if it is not a complete return to the world. It is an apostasy.

To understand the seriousness of what we are discussing, consider also how this same Hebrew word is used in Jeremiah 3:11, “*Faithless Israel has proved herself more righteous than treacherous Judah.*” The northern nation of Israel was faithless, backsliding, in apostasy. They were not serving God nor were they approved of God. Judah was in a worse state for she should have learned from the mistakes of Judah (Jer. 3:6-10). We also should learn from both their mistakes to not turn away from the Lord.

“*The backslider in heart will have his fill of his own ways*” (Prov. 14:14). Not that he will be satisfied, but that he will reap the reward of such ways. The judgment of God will surely rest upon the one who does not obey the gospel (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

What are we to do? Don’t quit! Keep struggling, keep fighting and keep waging the war! Do not allow yourself to slip backward. The goal of heaven must be kept in view or else the appeal of the world will lead our heart to desire to slide to the bottom! It is the easier path, but also the one that leads to eternal destruction. “*Consider your ways*” (Haggai 1:7). “*Examine yourself*” (2 Cor. 13:8). “*Stand firm*” (Eph. 6:10-17). Do not desert Him who called us (Gal. 1:6) and instead “*walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil*” (Eph. 5:15-16).

Keep climbing! “*Keep yourselves in the love of God*” (Jude 21).