

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. Shimei (2 Samuel 16:5–6)

2. Naboth (1 K ings 21:13)

3. Achan and his family (Josh. 7:24–25)

4. Lystra (Acts 14:19)

5. Scribes & Pharisees (John 8:3–11)

This Week's Assignments & Events			
Sunday Worship		Sunday Afternoons	
Greeter:	Ronnie Lightfoot	Apr 6	Encouragement (cards/calls)
Announcements:	John Franks		
Encouragement Talk:	Tyler Blazek	Apr 13	Nothing
Opening Prayer:	Kyle Crain		
Scripture Reading:	John Van Baale	Apr 20	Nothing
	Luke 8:16–21		
Song Leader:	Kevin Buckner		
Table Talk:	Arturo Orozco	Apr 27	3PM Classroom Quarter Change
Contribution:	Josh Emerson		
Helper:	Corwin Richardson		
Fruit of Vine:	Billy Lovell		
Helper:	Verlin Wilson		
Helper:	Lester Mabry		
Closing Prayer:	Billy Scherry		
Wednesday Evening			
Song Leader:	Truett Blazek		
Speaker:	Tyler Blazek		



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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Seeking Favor Of God Or Men?

“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 1:10).

Galatians 1:10 follows immediately after Paul’s stern reprimand in verses 5–9 about how amazed he was that the Galatians deserted God for a “different gospel.” He continues in verses 11–12 affirming *“the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”* The whole reason Paul was a bond-servant of Christ was that he desired the favor of God. The truth is also easily seen that those who want to please men are not a bond-servant of Christ.

Seeking the favor of men is the attitude of the false teacher and those who do not care about the authority of God’s word. *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths”* (2 Timothy 4:3–4). The underlying motive is wrong for the speaker and the hearer (in this context). It was all about wanting to please the hearer, and the hearer being pleased by the speaker. There was no concern about seeking God’s favor. This same spirit and attitude is very much alive in our country, our county, our neighborhoods. Many will even say it: they want religion to make them “feel good.” They do not want to hear about sin, repentance, or eternal condemnation – just tell us about God’s love, grace, and how we are doing things right. MANY Mega-Churches all over the nation take this approach. An approach that is soundly condemned in Scripture.

By inspiration Paul writes of this same attitude in other places. *“Just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts”* (1 Thessalonians 2:4). *“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men”* (Colossians 3:23). To those who were Christian slaves

the inspired word was given, saying *“be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart”* (Ephesians 6:5–6). Men-pleasers are not God-pleasers. Pleasing God is through obedience from the heart.

Jesus condemns the Pharisees for not confessing Him, *“for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God”* (John 12:42–43). This fear still exists in the minds of some Christians. To confess the truth which God has revealed may not be popular or well understood. Other Christians may condemn us because we dared to speak the truth of God. The only mind-set a Christian should have is to please God regarding His truth. Some Christians are silenced because they loved the approval of men and don’t want to “rock the boat” or “cause any problems” for others. The truth will create problems for others who are in sin - it is the Christian’s responsibility to help others learn the truth of God.

“Peter and the apostles” were told they were not to teach in the name of Jesus, and they responded *“we must obey God rather than men”* (Acts 5:29). Man can judge me in this life, God will judge me eternally. God has all authority. He is the one we must obey rather than men. Jesus said, *“do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”* (Matthew 10:28). It sounds easy, but when we have to disobey men it brings hardship upon us, and some are not willing to endure hardship. Jesus shows us He had the correct attitude when He said, *“he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him”* (John 8:29).

So whose favor are we seeking? Are we most concerned about the brethren in this congregation and what they think of us? Are we striving at work to please men when religious discussions arise? Are we seeking favor with ourselves or our family when we do things other than assembling with the saints?

Think on these things.

by Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Stoning

1. Who pelted David and his men with stones while accusing him of being a violent man?
2. What owner of a vineyard was stoned to death after being falsely accused in front of Ahab?
3. Who was stoned for holding back some of the loot taken from Jericho?
4. In what city did some Jews persuade people to stone Paul?
5. Who intended to stone the woman caught in adultery?

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.



RESPONSIBILITY

Reponsibility cannot be shifted:

By blaming another - Genesis 3:12

Claiming innocence - Matthew 27:24

Blaming a group - Exodus 32:21–24

Responsibility cannot be excused by:

Ignorance - Acts 17:30–31

Unbelief - John 3:18–20

One’s ancestors - Matthew 3:9–10

Responsibility is increased by:

Privilege - John 15:22, 24

Opportunity - Matthew 11:20–24

Growth - Matthew 13:12

Each of us has been given an eternal soul. An accounting will be made in the judgment day. If we have bahved responsibly by obeying the word of God, He will grant us eternal life. But if we have behaved irrestopnisby in this life, eternal destruction awaits us. It is our responsibility to carry the word of God to others, help those in need, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world.