

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. Elisha's (2 Kings 13:20–21)

2. At Shechem (Joshua 24:32)


3. David (2 Samuel 21:12–13)

4. The resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 27:52–53)

5. Godly men (Acts 8:2)

6. Son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:14)

This Week's Assignments & Events	
Sunday Worship	Sunday Afternoons
Greeter: Corwin Richardson	May 18 Nothing
Announcements: Josh Emerson	
Encouragement Talk: Jayson Richardson	May 25 3PM Building Work Day
Opening Prayer: Eddie Bowen	
Scripture Reading: Gary Tuttle	June 1 Visitation Day (not at building)
Luke 9:10–17	
Song Leader: John Franks	June 8 3PM Singing
Table Talk: Kevin Buckner	
Contribution: Tyler Blazek	
Helper: Truett Blazek	
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale	
Helper: Aaron Heald	
Helper: Verlin Wilson	
Closing Prayer: Sandon Spyker	



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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Return To Me

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘Return to Me’ declares the Lord of hosts, ‘that I may return to you’ says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 1:3).

The prophet Isaiah informs us in very simple language that our “iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear” (Is. 59:2). God does not leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5), but we have the ability to leave Him.

When we leave God it causes a separation between us. Our sin is something God cannot associate with, for He is holy. The only way to restore our relationship with God is to return to Him. He desires to return to us, but He cannot (and remain holy) unless we return to Him.

This was not a new message to Israel. Isaiah instructed them to “*return to Him from whom you have deeply defected, O sons of Israel*” (Is. 31:6). Again he writes: “*Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, For He will abundantly pardon*” (Is. 55:7). Jeremiah continues this theme in chapter 3 verses 10 and 14 ending with “*Return, oh faithless sons, I will heal your faithlessness*” (3:22). Over and over God appeals to the Israelites to return to Him. Time and time again they refuse and suffer consequences.

The Lord of Hosts

“Hosts” in Hebrew means: “a mass of persons” (Strong’s Concordance). It is used 52 times in Zechariah, and three times in the passage we are examining. We must come to understand that the one who pleads with us is the Lord of everyone and everything. He has taken notice of each one of us. He knows our every sin. He is concerned with our eternal state. He desires that we be faithful to Him.

When I sin, I violate the Law of God (1 John 3:4). I offend the Lord of hosts. I

separate myself from Him as He must separate Himself from me because I am not holy. I make myself the enemy of God (James 4:4).

Repentance

“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent” (Acts 17:30). “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Can we not still hear Him pleading with us, “Return to Me’ declares the Lord of hosts, ‘that I may return to you’”? If we search our heart and see that we have in fact maintained the attitude exhibited by Israel, that we have turned away from God, what will be our attitude now? Will we return, or will we choose to remain separated from God? His choice is to reach His hand out to us, imploring us to return to Him. This is the often repeated message of all the prophets.

Under the New Covenant this is the message of Jesus Christ and His apostles – that repentance and forgiveness can be ours. Initially in obeying the gospel, but we all sin and have a need to seek repentance again from God. Like Israel we defect from God and need to return. God knows this and we must come to realize it ourselves. The Lord of hosts will judge.

Let us learn the lesson from the Old Covenant to maintain a penitent heart and hold a strong desire to return to God. Regardless of what others say or think, all that really matters is being right with God. Don’t let anything interfere with this relationship!

“Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies’ declares the Lord God. ‘Therefore, repent and live” (Ezek. 18:31-32). Won’t you return to Him today?

by Charles Willis

**Know
Your
Bible**

Graves

- 1. What prophet’s buried bones worked a miracle?
- 2. Where we Joseph’s bones finally buried?
- 3. Who moved the bones of Saul and Jonathan to their final burial place?
- 4. What event cause many dead sints to arise and appear to many?
- 5. Who buried Stephen?
- 6. In the New Testament, which young man was raised from the dead while on his way to being buried?

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.



Growing Weary Of Doing Good

by Charles Willis

“As for you brethren, do not grow weary of doing good” (2 Thess. 3:13). Most Christians are familiar with this verse, yet we still tend to grow weary of doing good. Consider three reasons why some grow weary.

Loneliness At times we feel as if we are the only one trying to do good. Not that others are doing evil, they just do not seem to be doing good. An individual who is doing good will be one who looks for and takes advantage of an opportunity. The context of 2 Thessalonians 3 deals with providing food for a fellow saint (v. 12) and admonishing a wayward brother (v. 15). Sadly, it is true that in most congregations only a very few are involved in these things. Are you one in our congregation?

Immaturity Frequently the fewer who are mature grow weary due to the immaturity of the majority. Their lack of knowledge and understanding of God’s will leads to falling away into sin and misunderstandings of scripture which must be corrected. *“Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves” (Rom. 15:1).* Again, the teaching is to not grow weary.

Others Problems Everyone struggles with problems of this life and with being righteous. We each have our own burdens to bear. “Doing good” at times means helping others work through their problems. We are to *“bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).* It is difficult to help others when you may be struggling yourself with aspects of just living in this world. It can be frustrating if several are seeking your help. It is easy to think “I don’t have all the answers” and just give up. It’s easy to give a simple answer to satisfy the one asking questions so that they will leave you alone, but not really help their understanding.

Conclusion No matter what’s going on in our life, no matter our level of maturity – the instruction is the same: do not grow weary of doing good.



*If I have all faith,
so as to remove mountains,*

1 Corinthians 13:2

but do not have love, I am nothing.