

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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Beyond What Is Written (continued from page 3)

The “Church of Almighty God” believes God is speaking new things, beyond what has been written, which should be a red flag to true believers. No one person is identified as the incarnated “God Almighty,” as is Jesus Christ in His incarnation (John 1:14). It seems they believe God is incarnated today in humanity, both male and female. The Lord’s body, the church, is not a second incarnation of God, but a body of believers allowing what has already been written once and for all to work in their lives. Beyond what is written is not of God!

This Week's Assignments & Events		
Sunday Worship	Sunday Afternoons	
Greeter: Lester Mabry	June 15	Nothing
Announcements: John Franks		
Encouragement Talk: Josh Emerson	June 22	3PM Devotionals
Opening Prayer: Kyle Crain		
Scripture Reading: John Van Bbaale	June 29	Nothing
Luke 9:43–48		
Song Leader: Arturo Orozco	July 6	Nothing
Table Talk: Kevin Buckner		
Contribution: Billy Scherry		
Helper: Theo Edge		
Fruit of Vine: Eddie Bowen		
Helper: Casey Thomas		
Helper: Sandon Spyker		
Closing Prayer: Billy Lovell		
	Wednesday Evening	
	Song Leader:	John Franks
	Speaker:	John Van Baale



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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The Blah’s

I recently heard a story on the news that was astounding (at least to me) of an amusement park hosting an attempt at the world record for how long a person could ride a roller coaster. They started with a full load of passengers that was whittled down to five diehards. These five finally gave up trying to beat each other and said they couldn’t stand it any more. They all got off the ride at the same time, after they had been riding for ten weeks! The thrill and excitement of such a ride eventually wore off and became the usual, the mundane.

If we are not careful, our attention to godly matters can also become mundane. Our worship to God is an opportunity to express our joy and happiness for being given the privilege to be called His children. We should “rejoice, because our names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20). That is not the attitude we often have when we get up on Sunday mornings. “Time to go to church!” - blah. “Do you have your Bible lesson?” - ugh. “Brother So-and-So is leading singing.” - uh-oh. “I hope the preacher doesn’t go long, I may have trouble staying awake.” Where is the joy of being a Christian? When did we lose it? How can we get it back?

The only way to maintain our joy is to continuously look into the mirror of God’s word (James 1:23-25). “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path*” (Psalm 119:105). The Bible tells us how we ought to go. It prevents us from thinking too highly of ourselves. It allows us to keep our sins ever before us in light of the salvation we enjoy in Christ Jesus. How could worshipping God ever become routine if we are daily thanking Him for the deliverance from this world and the punishment we deserve?

Unlike the continual riding of a roller-coaster, learning from the word of God always brings forth new ideas, new thoughts, new ways of seeing things. Our appreciation for the things God has done for us will be kept fresh. We do that by the “*renewing of the mind*” (Rom. 12:2). The word “renew” means: a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better. We completely reorganize the way we think about some subjects. Our belief in God does not change, but “fine tuning” is what keeps it fresh. We must constantly renovate our thinking. Studying God’s word will prevent the “blahs” from plaguing our worship.

By neglecting good habits of study, we encourage the “blahs” to settle in our lives. This is a dangerous spiritual condition. The Israelites displayed such a flippant, careless attitude about worship: “*You also say, My how tiresome it is! And you disdainfully sniff at it*” (Malachi 1:13). They were tired of the offerings. It was a lot of trouble to “go through the motions.” That was the problem, it had become a routine. They did not place any importance, or even see the need of the sin sacrifice for they brought “*what was taken by robbery, and what is sick or lame; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand? Says the Lord*” (Malachi 1:13). They had the “blahs.” God despised their worship. He cursed the priests and withdrew His blessing from the nation. Has God changed? Has His attitude about worship changed? Is God pleased when we worship with the attitude of “is it over yet?” To worship that way is dangerous to our eternal destiny.

We are granted the privilege to worship God. We have been shown the mysteries. We have in our possession the will of God! Do we dare to disdain these blessings with such a shameful attitude? Let us go, read, renew our joy. Let us invigorate our spirit with the knowledge of our salvation!

Charles Willis

***Know
Your
Bible***

Hugs & Kisses

1. What 2 hostile brothers met and kissed each other, weeping?
2. Who met Moses in the wilderness and kissed him?
3. Who had a tearful farewell with many kisses, at the city of Miletus?
4. What prophet protested men kissing the image of Baal?
5. Who kissed Jesus as a supposed sign of friendship?

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.



Beyond What Is Written

by Jerry Fite

Paul presented himself and Apollos as examples so the Corinthians would not “*go beyond the things that are written; that no one be puffed up for the one against the other*” (I Corinthians 4:6). Paul’s writings were the authoritative commandment of the Lord, and inspired Scripture (I Corinthians 14:37, 2 Peter 3:16). He was faithful to what the Spirit revealed, and abiding in what is written, the Corinthians could avoid division.

What has been written? The faith revealed through the one and only gospel is “*once for all*” (Jude 3, Galatians 1:6-8, 23). Jesus’ incarnation was sufficient in helping us know the character of God, and bringing to naught the Devil who had power over death (John 14:9, Hebrews 2:14). Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension on High secures his High Priesthood for all time (Hebrews 7:23-8:1). No need for a new gospel, new faith, or a new avenue to a Holy God in Heaven.

Through Christ, the dispensation of grace ushered in the “*last days*” (Acts 2:17, Eph.3:2). All has been accomplished for our eternal home in Heaven (I Pet. 1:3-4). We now wait for the end, when Christ returns to meet His saints in the sky and return the kingdom unto the Father (Phil. 3:20, I Thess. 4:16-17, I Cor. 15:24).

Abiding in what has been written in the New Testament helps us avoid being carried away by modern day revelations and doctrines. For example, the “Church of Almighty God” advocates some strange doctrines. We are told to believe “the last day Christ” has returned to earth (in China) to usher in the final part of God’s management plan in a hidden way. God has been incarnated again as the authoritative “Almighty God,” different from that of the gracious “Jesus Christ.” The “age of grace” has ended, and the “age of the kingdom” has now come. Judgment has ushered in this new age with God’s people having to suffer at the hands of sinners. Believers, who knew the God of love in the age of grace, need to now know the God of Righteousness in the age of the kingdom. We already know the righteousness of God through the Gospel (Rom. 1:17).

We do not need a new age to know the way to eternal life, or know we have eternal life (John 14:6, I John 5:13). In the so called “age of grace,” the testing of faith through persecution was already teaching its lessons to the godly (I Peter. 1:6-7, 2 Tim. 3:12). Why a new age? In the so called “age of grace” the kingdom of God’s son was already present. It is the church which continues to submit to God’s rule in Christ today (Colossians 1:13, Heb. 12:23, 28). Why a new “kingdom age”? People were not only forgiven in the so called “age of grace,” but were sanctified and instructed to perfect holiness during this age (I Cor. 6:11, 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1). What new instruction from a second incarnation of God is needed?

(Continues on page 4)