

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. Refusing to marry widow of deceased brother (Deut. 25:9)

2. They lasted 40 years (Deut. 29:5)

3. The people of Gibeon (Josh. 9:5)

4. Ezekiel (24:17)

5. Father of the prodigal son (Luke 15:22)

This Week's Assignments & Events		
Sunday Worship	Sunday Afternoons	
Greeter: Truett Blazek	June 29	Nothing
Announcements: Josh Emerson		
Encouragement Talk: Arturo Orozco	July 6	Nothing
Opening Prayer: Sandon Spyker		
Scripture Reading: Kyle Crain	July 13	3PM Summer Study
Luke 9:57–62		
Song Leader: Kevin Buckner	July 20	Nothing
Table Talk: Tyler Blazek		
Contribution: John Franks		
Helper: Gary Tuttle		
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale		
Helper: Corwin Richardson		
Helper: Verlin Wilson		
Closing Prayer: Eddie Bowen		
	Wednesday Evening	
	Song Leader: Corwin Richardson	
	Speaker: Josh Emerson	



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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Why Do You Go To Church?

There is a trend among “church goers” that is greatly disturbing. We must be on guard lest it slip into our mind-set as Christians. People look to the “church” as the provider of everything in their life, spiritually and socially.

This trend is most pronounced among the so-called “Mega-churches” that have 10,000 - 20,000 members. When I was growing up as a teen, many churches had “life-centers.” Back then a gym/fellowship hall was the “top of the line” facility large churches were building. That has been replaced with activity centers with gyms, multiple basketball courts, health clubs, ball fields, diners and restaurants, a “prayer” walking track, lots of classrooms, and a sanctuary space that will seat 6,000 or more. The Fellowship Church in Grapvine, Texas has a rock climbing wall, video arcade, and they built a lake to encourage father and son fishing. Southeast Christian in Louisville, Kentucky designed their building like a “mall (the sanctuary being the anchor tenant). Hallways 20 feet wide with curves that enhance ‘people flow’... preschoolers frolic at a Disneyesque play land, with mazes.” (Internet article by Patricia Leigh Brown) This is the current model and who knows what will come next.

In the 1950’s the Lord’s church was divided over the use of the Lord’s treasury in supporting orphan homes, missionary societies and sponsoring church arrangements. Many who left the truth in support of these activities are now fighting against carrying the same arguments into further apostasy. This has given rise to some congregations growing into a “Mega-church” similar to the ones describes above. They cannot stop the change because the same arguments are used to support these activities which were thrown up in the 1950’s. The truth is: not one examples can be found in Scripture where the church treasury was spent on social programs like the “mega-churches” are creating. The social aspects of man are not what Jesus died for, He died so that our soul might be saved! The church is spiritually based and the examples and teaching in Scripture indicate the work of the church is to be the pillar and ground of truth (1

Tim. 3:15; Eph. 3:10), teaching and edification of the congregation (Eph. 4:12), and helping the saints in need (1 Tim .5:16, 2 Cor. 8:14, Rom. 15:26–27). When Scripture gives these specific works, logic dictates that it excludes all other works such as the “social gospel” so may are participating in.

My greatest concern is that Christian attitudes toward these things will change. In my life I have seen attitudes change about these things in friends of mine who attend a “church of Christ” that participates in these activities. I know of sound Christians who have left the faith to attend with a congregation that has “more to offer.” Daivd Kinnaman, vice president of Barna Research (one of the consulting firms helping mega-churches grow) said adult church goers, at the rate of one in six, “church-hop, based on their need.” One in seven will leave a church this year. “People are looking at churches with a similar cost-benefit analysis they’d give to any other consumer purchase. There is little brand loyalty. Many are looking for the newest and the greatest”. Why are these people going to church? Their attitude is most certainly “what’s in it for me”! They have no concept of the church that Jesus died to establish!

Let’s consider a “cost-benefit analysis.” *“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). The church the Christ died to establish is made up of those who understand eternal life is freely given to those who do not deserve it. We deserve to die eternally, but God’s grace extends salvation to *“whosoever will”* (Revelation 22:17). There is a cost the individual must pay: we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23). This means we will not choose what we want (such as the amenities of a mega-church), but we will choose to do things as He has instructed (Matthew 28:19–20; 1 John 5:3). To somehow believe we can weigh the amenities of a mega-church against obedience to the word of God is a foolish proposition. *“What will a man be profited if he gains the whole world and lose his own soul? What will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Matthew 16:26). This is a “cost-benefit” analysis the Christian needs to consider very carefully!

***Know
Your
Bible***

Foot Coverings

1. For what crime could a man have his shoe taken away and face spit in?
2. What did God do for the shoes of the Israelites while in the wilderness?
3. What town’s people tricked Joshua by putting on worn-out shoes when they went to meet him?
4. Who was told not to take off his shoes after his wife died?
5. Who ordered a pair of sandal’s for his son’s feet?

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.



Mr. Kinnaman said people are comparing a church choice to “any other consumer purchase.” The Bible tells us nothing of being a “consumer” in the church. To think of the church in that way is to greatly miss the instructions of Jesus that *“whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”* (Matthew 20:26–28). Being the servant of all is the attitude every Christian should have. To attend a church looking to get something out of it is the wrong attitude. We attend in order to GIVE praise to God and GIVE encouragement to others. Through this we are encouraged. Even in the church we can find the attitude of “what’s in it for me.” If this attitude remains in our heart, it will grow. We will want to fulfill our desires, even in regards to spiritual things. We will more easily be persuaded to leave the truth and turn toward the worldly attitude of the mega-churches.

Those who attend at a mega-church are not looking for the church Jesus died to establish. They are looking for a “community center” with good values. There’s nothing wrong with a community center with good values - but it cannot be found in the church Jesus died to establish. We need to be sober and vigilant about this “church trend” which I believe comes from Satan (1 Peter 5:8-9)! Many are being seduced into a worldly mind-set of doing anything from the church treasury with no care of consideration to what God has said. No investigation into what the church did in the first century. Authority is assumed and demanded by local mega-churches (and many others) so that they can participate in any activity they want. These prove they do not love God for Jesus said: *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* (John 14:15). The work of the church must be what is defined in Scripture if we hope to please God!

by Charles Willis

EVANGELISM

I don’t invite others to the assemblies.

I don’t hand out any tracts or bulletins.

I don’t knock on any doors.

I don’t talk to neighbors about God.

I don’t enter religious conversations with co-workers or friends.

I don’t leave any cards of invitation to studies or gospel meetings.

I don’t bother my friends who wouldn’t be interested anyway.

So, what ARE you doing?