

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. Under a bushel (Matthew 5:15)
2. Gideon (Judges 7:16–21)
3. John (Revelation 1:12)
4. Moses (Exodus 25:31–37)
5.

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Truett Blazek
Announcements: Tyler Blazek
Encouragement Talk: Eddie Bowen
Opening Prayer: John Van Baale
Scripture Reading: Kyle Crain
Luke 12:1–12
Song Leader: John Franks
Table Talk: Josh Emerson
Contribution: Kevin Buckner
Helper: Gary Tuttle
Fruit of Vine: Arturo Orozco
Helper: Sandon Spyker
Helper: Billy Scherry
Closing Prayer: Billy Lovell

Sunday Afternoons

Aug 31 Nothing
Sept 7 3PM Weekend Study
Sept 14 Nothing
Sept 21 3PM Encouragement (cards/calls)

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Kevin Buckner
Speaker: ArturOrozco



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

Volume 22
Number 35
August 31, 2025

Greatest Of These Is Love

Church problems are people problems. The wisdom of the world understands that relationship problems are the most difficult to deal with whether it is a spouse, an employer, or a friend. The Church is no different since it is composed of people. Personalities and attitudes will create friction at times, especially if we are not careful!

We can read in many places where the Bible condemns poor attitudes such as “*anger, wrath, malice, slander and abusive speech*” (Col. 3:8) which the Christian is to put away and instead put on Christ. Well, if you have been a Christian for very long, you know how many people struggle to put these things away! Some of these very traits have been exhibited by brethren toward each other. These attitudes are what create and sustain problems in the church. If we would individually remove these things from our heart I am convinced most problems in the Church would disappear. To harbor these attitudes and revel in them is to live in sin, yet some continue to believe they are right with God when the Bible says they are to put these things away.

In wisdom, God knew of the problems that would exist in the Church so that through John He said, “*we also ought to love one another*” (1 John 4:11) and “*If someone says I love God and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also*” (1 John 4:20–21). I’ve known some Christians who hated their brother. They might not say so, but their actions betray them. There is no concern for their brother’s soul. If they believed their “brother” was in error it is not evidenced when there is no spirit of gentleness when speaking with them. It is as if God never said “*if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be so arrogant and lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing*” (James 3:14–16). We do not

tend to look at the poor attitudes of some in the Church and speak of it as being earthly and demonic! Perhaps we would be more careful to avoid such attitudes and behaviors if we understood it was from Satan!

“The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy, and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy” (James 3:17). Paul writes we should *“walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Eph. 4:1–3). I have seen these traits in the Church also, but I must confess I’ve seen way too little of it. These *“fruit of the Spirit”* (Gal. 5:22) should be in each one of us. *“By this all men will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:35).

Where is love when Church discipline is practiced so that the person is shunned? Where is love when the erring child chooses to return only to find no forgiveness from brethren? Where is love when criticism is all that can be expressed? Where is love when brethren in Christ will not talk to each other? Where is love when problems are not discussed and resolved? In all of these and many more, love is the missing ingredient. The reason so many congregations struggle with internal problems is because of a lack of love! I pray that you will dedicate yourself to developing the traits of love that God desires in each of us. As God’s people we must *“pursue love”* (1 Cor. 14:1), work to *“stimulate one another to love and good works”* (Heb. 10:24), and *“love your neighbor as yourself”* (Rom. 13:9; Gal. 5:13). Only when love exists can a local congregation of the Lord’s Church be at peace. Only when love abounds can the congregation be united in the Lord’s work. *“Faith working through love”* (Gal. 5:6) is the attribute all of us must be working to achieve in our own heart. Love is the driving force that maintains our fellowship with God and with one another. *“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love”* (1 John 4:8).

by Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Lights

1. According to Jesus, where do we never put our light?
2. Which judge confused the Midianite army by having his men break jars revealing their torches?
3. Who had a vision of Jesus walking among 7 golden lampstands?
4. Who was told to make a 7-branched lampstand to place in the tabernacle?

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.



Interest In The Gospel

by Charles Willis

Consider a few quotes from the biography of the faithful gospel preacher W. W. Otey (who labored roughly from 1880-1950).

“In July, 1905, W.W. Otey held a good meeting at Oaktown, Indiana. Twelve were added in the first nine days. So great was the public interest in the meeting that the town stores closed during services so people could attend” (p.174).

In Newcastle, Indiana, on February 22, 1906, “the meeting which Otey conducted lasted eighteen days” (p.181).

“The meeting which Otey held at Winfield soon after his arrival continued over four Sundays. During it he conducted twenty-four night services...During this meeting eleven were baptized, and several were added by restoration and membership” (p.240).

Some of W.W. Otey’s thoughts from interviews by the biographer:

“He felt that most meetings that failed did so because of indifference toward them on the part of the members of the congregation. He wrote that the church’s greatest needs were more faith, recognition of Christ as Saviour, diligence to overcome a popularized Christianity, excellent singing, and to outshine all others in purity” (p.176).

“If the advocates of truth would show the same diligence and zeal in its behalf that many advocates of error do, what would be the progress in turning sinners from darkness to light...?” (p.188).

W. W. Otey traveled to Clark’s Mill Virginia, a place “where he had converted ninety-seven in a 1904 meeting. The crowd was so large at Clark’s Mill that they had to be seated on the river bank. Attendance was estimated at one thousand” (p.188).

People today are no different. The thoughts of man have not changed over the course of generations. We can read in the Bible where people had the same attitudes and motives as we do. If people showed interest in the gospel in W. W. Otey’s lifetime, they will show the same interest today. While these quotations are about gospel meetings, the statements about the attitude of the congregation are compelling.

I conclude that if we want to draw people to God through the preaching of the gospel, WE have to demonstrate our interest in the gospel, be excited about assembling, be very active in speaking to others. 97 people obeyed the gospel in one city during one meeting in 1904. That is more than comprise our congregation. If you desire to see people obey the gospel, I encourage you to be diligent, zealous, and out-going in speaking of the gospel. *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek”* (Rom. 1:16).