

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. Stephen (Acts 6:7–8)
2. Eutychus (Acts 20:9)
3. Ruth
4. Abraham (Genesis 20:7)
5. Cana (John 2:1–11)
6. River turned to blood (Ex. 7:14–24)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Gary Tuttle
Announcements: John Franks
Encouragement Talk: Arturo Orozco
Opening Prayer: Josh Emerson
Scripture Reading: Eddie Bowen
Luke 12:35–40
Song Leader: Billy Lovell
Table Talk: Kevin Buckner
Contribution: Billy Scherry
Helper: Kyle Crain
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale
Helper: Sandon Spyker
Helper: Aaron Heald
Closing Prayer: Tyler Blazek

Sunday Afternoons

Sept 21 3PM Encouragement (cards/calls)

Sept 28 Nothing

Oct 5 Visitation Day

Oct 12 Nothing

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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Old Habits

Habitual behavior can be good, but most often we feel we need to change our habits to become more of what God would have us be. From the time God created man, we have struggled with our habits; but that does not excuse sinful behavior.

In 2 Kings 17:41 we read, “*So, while these nations feared the Lord, they also served their idols; their children likewise and their grandchildren, as their father did, so they do to this day.*” Clearly, we can pass our habits to our children and grandchildren and even further. The influence we can have on the actions, thoughts, and attitudes of our descendants is profound. The Israelites (in general) were influenced to idolatry, and it was a habit they struggled with for generations.

Their struggle perhaps began in Egypt as they were surrounded by the many gods of the Egyptians. Perhaps this is why they chose to build the golden calf at the foot of Mount Sinai. Verse 33 of our text says they “*feared the Lord and served their own gods according to the custom of the nations from among whom they had been carried away into exile.*” Regardless of when they learned to worship idols, there is no doubt that by this time (in 2 Kings 17) it was a long-held tradition in their culture and families.

Families like traditions and habits. When an individual believes something different from the religion of the “family” it often creates waves of unrest in a household or extended family. Some people have trouble obeying the truth of God because of a long-held family belief. We tend to prefer to just “go with the flow,” even if the flow is wrong! The Israelites in our text were worshipping Jehovah while they served the idols. The preceding verses are all about what God had done for them, but “*they did not listen*” (v.40), “*but did according to their earlier custom.*”

Our culture (in a similar way) is advocating many “faiths” which God approves. There are many similarities in these beliefs to the concept of idolatry that was evident in the lives of the Israelites. The world says: worship God any way you want, be sincere but hold to your convictions, there are many roads that lead to heaven, just go to church somewhere, we’re all Christians and therefore the children of God because we believe Jesus is the Son of God. This has become the habit that many families have adopted, and is certainly the habit of our culture in which we are raising our children. Rather than remembering what Jehovah has done for us,

many believers are adopting the views of the world and teaching them to their children through their influence.

For example: in the 1950s men began proclaiming in the Lord’s church that we should support from the Lord’s treasury things like missionary societies, orphan homes, and mass evangelical efforts. These are good works (certainly), but their support from the Lord’s treasury cannot be authorized in scripture. Today, these same men fear the Lord and also serve their idol (self) in these practices; their children likewise and their grandchildren do so to this day. When error is allowed, it will influence the next generation to further error. Thus, we now see in congregations the errors of marriage/divorce/remarriage issues, the acceptance of open fellowship with denominations, the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship, the denial of bible doctrines such as the necessity of baptism or the reality of hell. Where did these things come from? The acceptance of an error in generations past. Their influence has been passed to the next generations.

What about us? What influence are we having on the next two or three generations? Where will the Lord’s church be, based on the influence we are exerting? Consider and contemplate these few serious matters:

Modesty. How can Christians exert a positive influence toward godliness if we are dressed in a more immodest fashion than the world? Not too many years ago most every Christian believed that shorts (of any length) were immodest. Now we see Christians (even in our congregation) who do not just wear shorts, but wear them of a length shorter than their friends. In a group, the one that stands out as the most immodestly dressed is the one who professes to be a Christian. Doesn’t this sound like our text: “while these nations feared the Lord, they also served their idols”? We profess a belief and fear in God, but we continue to do what we want. Where will such behavior end? What will our children understand to be modest? How many generations beyond us will think nothing of wearing a bikini bathing suit? Or worse? We must be an influence for righteousness.

Righteousness rather than just being seen of men. It is easy to put on a show of righteousness—just consider how many people drive according to the Law when a police officer is sitting beside the road pointing the radar. Sadly, many people do the same thing religiously. When someone is watching, they behave; but when they think no one will know—they

**Know
Your
Bible**

Firsts

- 1. Who was the first Christian martyr?
- 2. Who was the first person recorded to have slept during a sermon?
- 3. What is the first book in the Bible named after a woman?
- 4. Who is the first prophet mentioned in the Bible?
- 5. Where did Jesus work his first miracle?
- 6. What was the first plague upon Egypt?

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.



choose to sin. Maybe it’s just a little drink of alcohol, maybe it’s a web page, perhaps it’s even a totally different set of morals when surrounded by the work crowd. God is not pleased with such behavior—that’s what was so strongly condemned in the Pharisees. We are to love God from the heart. Righteousness is to be done from the heart. Children can spot hypocrisy from a mile away. What influence are we having upon the next two generations? What are they learning from us about real righteousness?

Putting God First. Perhaps no other problem in our society so closely mimics that of the Israelites. Jehovah is not first in priority, but instead shares that position with other things. This is nowhere more evident than in the typical assembly statistics of congregations around the nation, including ours. It is not uncommon for a drop off of more than 30% between a Sunday morning and Sunday night assembly. A midweek service is typically closer to 45–50% reduction in attendance. Scarcely 100 years ago things were not this way. Yes, we live in a different world than they did; however, that has no bearing on priorities. Most of us can be anywhere when we feel strongly about it. Seeking “*first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness*” (Matthew 6:33) seems to be a dying sort of commitment. What influence will we have on our descendants? If we only attend two or three assemblies a month, how many should we expect they might attend? This is but one area of application of not putting God first.

Studying to show ourselves approved as a workman that needeth not be ashamed. ‘Those folks in the church of Christ, they know their Bible!’ That WAS the sentiment of the world in 1940. It is not in 2025. There are some who know scripture, and there are many who know more than the average person in the world, but sadly many have followed the trend of the nation we live in. They read after “Christian writers,” depend on “Christian radio,” rely on “good preachers and elders” rather than putting their trust in the word of God! Study, real study, is a dying aspect of our religious life. We need a vigilant attitude to return to the book and study diligently. Why would we choose 30 minutes of streaming programs rather than 30 minutes of Matthew or Galatians? When these are our choices we must see there is a problem with priorities and attitude about the importance of study!

Old habits are hard to break, but break them we must. It may be a habit we learned from our family, or even from our culture. They must be broken if we want to hope that future generations will remain faithful to God. Our influence must be exerted toward righteousness, and breaking an old bad habit in our life is one way that will make an impression on our descendants. The Israelites did not listen: “*The covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods*” (2 Kings 17:38). We need to listen and act according to what pleases God.

Charles Willis