

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. Sandballat, Tobiah, & Geshem
(Nehemiah 2:19)

2. Sarah (Genesis 18:10–12)

3. Psalms (2:4; 37:13; 59:8)

4. Ecclesiastes (3:4)

5. Isaac (Genesis 21:3–6)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Casey Thomas

Announcements: John Van Baale

Encouragement Talk: John Franks

Opening Prayer: Kyle Crain

Scripture Reading: John Franks
Luke 12:13–21

Song Leader: Kevin Buckner

Table Talk: Josh Emerson

Contribution: Billy Scherry

Helper: Gobi Warner

Fruit of Vine: Sandon Spyker

Helper: Aaron Heald

Helper: Lester Mabry

Closing Prayer: Arturo Orozco

Sunday Afternoons

Sept 7 3PM Weekend Study

Sept 14 Nothing

Sept 21 3PM Encouragement (cards/calls)

Sept 28 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Josh Emerson

Speaker: John Franks



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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Giving Up The Promised Land

One of the most tragic and sad events recorded in the history of the Israelites would have to be their leaving the promised land. A promise of land was given to Abram (Genesis 12:1, 6–7); the land of Canaan would be given to his descendants. This ‘promised land’ became very important to the young nation as they were coming up out of Egyptian bondage in the first half of the book of Exodus. Joshua finally leads the people into Canaan (Joshua 3) where God defeats the nation for them.

Several generations of Israelites pass until they desire to have a king over them to be like the nations around them. Solomon (the third king) dies and his son Jeroboam made a poor choice and increased the hardship on the people (1 Kings 12). This divided the promised land into two portions. The majority of the tribes remained in the Northern Kingdom, and only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained true to God as the Southern Kingdom. The Assyrian Empire defeated the Northern Kingdom around 725 B.C. Because of their unfaithfulness, God allowed them to be taken into captivity.

Jeremiah’s prophecy speaks of how “*faithless Israel has proved herself more righteous than treacherous Judah*” (3:11). Judah did not learn from the mistakes of the Northern Kingdom but bowed down to idols themselves. God’s anger burned against Judah and He sent many prophets to warn them of the consequences of their sin (Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, and others). The Southern Kingdom did not respond to the call of God.

Finally, in 2 Kings 25 we read of the destruction of Jerusalem by the King of Babylon. Verses 18–22 tell us the King struck down the chief priest, the second priest, officers of the temple, the man over the army, the King’s advisors, the scribe to the captain of the army, and 60 men from the city. His servant Nebuzaradan led the assault on the city and oversaw the plunder and destruction of the temple and surrounding area. We read how they even broke down the walls (v.10) and burned every great house (v.9). They carried almost all of the people away into Babylonian captivity, but left

some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen (v.12). So we learn that most of the people left the promised land as captives—it was a forced departure.

From the few who remained around the remnants of Jerusalem, the King of Babylon appointed Gedaliah as king. He told his fellow Jews to *“live in the land, serve the king of Babylon, and it will be well with you”* (v.24). A short time later his countrymen killed him and all the soldiers of the king that were with him. Because of their rebellious actions against the King of Babylon verse 26 says *“all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the forces arose and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.”*

Applications

The people returned to the land God delivered them from—giving up the ‘promised land’ because of their sin. In a very similar way, we also can give up God’s ‘promised land’ for the Christian.

Jesus said, *“I go and prepare a place for you”* (John 14:2). The heavenly home is the ‘promised land’ for the faithful of God. It is a spiritual land in which we will live for eternity. We must meet God’s requirements for entering that land: *“not everyone that saith unto Me ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father who is in heaven”* (Matt. 7:21).

Like the Israelites, we can give up the ‘promised land’. Our disobedience leads to eternal destruction. We could listen to Satan’s lies, which are comparable with Gedaliah’s statement. Lies to cause us to conform to his wishes. Lies to draw us away from God.

Without a trusting confidence in God, we turn our back on His promised land. This is perhaps the only thing sadder than the Israelites leaving the promised land: the Christian who gives up heaven.

Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Laughing

- 1. Who laughed at Nehemiah’s plan to rebuild Jerusalem?
- 2. Who laughed when she heard she would bear a son in her old age?
- 3. What is the only book in the Bible to mention God laughing?
- 4. What book says there is a time to weep and a time to laugh?
- 5. What Old Testament character’s name means “laughter”?

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.



Watch Where You Are Going

by Charles Willis

I remember taking driver’s education when I turned 16. I was taught to not look at the ground directly in front of the automobile, but to keep my eyes fixed on the horizon. To look five feet ahead is to continually swerve right and left, but by fixing your gaze on the horizon your path became straight. This was how I learned to drive.

Here’s what God tells us about living life.

Proverbs 4:25 *“Let your eyes look directly ahead, and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you”*

A problem for many believers is they take their eyes off the goal. They do not travel in the right direction because their gaze is not fixed on heaven. Persistence and focus in living life will aid us in remaining faithful. It’s easy to sin when we fail to think of God or consider the consequences of our actions. That’s taking our eyes off the goal. We must be those who are constantly watching the goal.

Distractions will come our way, just as they do in driving. No one who is a decent driver will take his eyes off the road for more than a moment – it’s too dangerous to ourselves and others on the road. I wish some Christians would learn that about living life. We put our own soul in jeopardy and can cause harm to others when we allow ourselves to be distracted by temptation and led into sin. We are failing to heed the instructions of Proverbs 4:25.

Proverbs 4:26 *“Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established”*

I believe this Proverb is telling us look at where you are stepping. If you’ve ever done any hiking on mountain trails, you understand this concept of looking at where you place each footstep. One poor choice can cause a sprained ankle or worse. Scan the path ahead and we will know which way we out to go – it will be established in our mind.

Even more true about the way we live our life! Each decision in life is like placing a step on the trail. If we look to our destination and examine where we need to turn to get there, our way will be established. We have to map a course through life. The way to heaven avoids the snares and pitfalls of Satan. We must watch where we place our feet so that we do not become tangled.

Proverbs 4:27 *“Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil”*

We have choices in our life of doing righteousness or unrighteousness. We must keep ourselves on the path of righteousness without drifting off course. We must turn our foot from evil. When we see it coming – avoid it, step around it, do not participate.

These simple truths enable us to remain righteous as we travel the pathway of life.