

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. Mary & Martha (John 11)

2. Miriam (Exodus 15)

3. Vashti (Esther 1)

4. Abigail (1 Chronicles 2:16–17)

5. Jael (Judges 4)

6. Bilhah (Genesis 29–35)

This Week's Assignments & Events			
Sunday Worship		Sunday Afternoons	
Greeter:	Aaron Emerrson	Dec 21	Nothing
Announcements:	Leighton Daniels		
Encouragement Talk:	John Franks	Dec 28	Nothing
Opening Prayer:	John Van Baale		
Scripture Reading:	Jordan Thomas	Jan 4	Nothing
	Luke 17:1–10		
Song Leader:	Josh Emerson	Jan 11	Devotionals
Table Talk:	Arturo Orozco		
Contribution:	Sandon Spyker		
Helper:	Tyler Blazek		
Fruit of Vine:	Billy Lovell		
Helper:	Kyle Crain		
Helper:	Kevin Buckner		
Closing Prayer:	Aaron Heald		
		Wednesday Evening	
		Song Leader:	Arturo Orozco
		Speaker:	Leighton Daniels



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 51
December 21, 2025

Going After Nations Around Us

“They rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings with which He warned them. And they followed vanity and became vain, and went after the nations which surrounded them, concerning which the Lord had commanded them not to do like them” (2 Kings 17:15).

The Northern Kingdom of Israel fell away from God because their desire changed. They did not desire to please God, but pursued their own desires. THEY wanted to be like the surrounding nations. So they moved away from God.

Verses 16-17 of this same reading tells us they made images and worshipped all the host of heaven, including Baal. They burned their children as sacrifices, practiced magic and sold themselves to do evil in God's sight. They forsook the covenant, exchanging it for what THEY wanted.

The result of their sin is found in verse 18, “So the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah.”

There is a great need in the church today to learn from the mistakes of Israel. I see too many congregations and too many individuals who are going after the nations that surround us. Many of the doctrines of Christ are being abandoned to walk in the ways of the world: baptism as a necessity; church organization; fellowship with denominations; celebrating religious “holy” days; the social gospel and much more. There is more diversity of belief among those who claim to be a part of the Church of Christ than has ever existed in the past. Why? It must be that doctrine has changed, or at least the people's attitude about doctrine has changed. Just like Israel the desire has changed from wanting to please God, to wanting to please ourselves. We WANT to be like the nations around us. So men have moved away from God.

Likewise, individuals have changed their desire. Being a good Bible student,

learning the truth of God and applying it to our life, teaching it to others – these are not the focus for many any more. Now men want to know enough Bible so that their conscience doesn't bother them – they believe they have obeyed God. But when truth is taught and error is exposed these become offended, even hostile because a demand is made in God's word for a change in their life. Many are unwilling because the focus is not on pleasing God, but satisfying self. "Church" is an activity to satisfy OUR needs and desires, instead of a body of saved individuals who worship and serve God.

Many in the church have forsaken the commandments of the Lord. They have broken the covenant with God established in Jesus Christ – but they are not aware of their sin. They believe they are righteous when they are not. God's anger, come the judgment day, will not be stopped unless they repent and return.

As Christians, we are to shine as lights in the darkness of this world (Matt. 5:14-16). We are to 'shine', meaning we are to be different from the world. We can't appear like the world and be a light. We are taught to "*walk as children of light*" (Eph. 5:8) and "*be not conformed to this world*" (Rom. 12:2). Pure religion is (in part) keeping ourselves "*unspotted from the world*" (James 1:27). These passages and many more clearly teach we are to have the same mind-set the Israelites were suppose to have – that of being separate from the nations around us. We cannot conform to the world and be transformed by the word of God at the same time. We must choose.

Paul writes, "*the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age*" (Titus 2:11-12). This is what God has instructed us. We are not to be like the nations around us. Who will we serve: ourselves or God?

"Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15-17).

By Charles Willis

***Know
Your
Bible***

Women

1. What 2 sisters of Lazarus were close friends of Jesus?
2. What prophetess was the sister of 2 great leaders of Israel?
3. What Persian queen refused to appear before the king at a drunken banquet?
4. Who offered a bottle of milk to an enemy soldier and then killed him?
5. What handmaid of Jacob bore his sons Dan and Naphtali?

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.



Christian Faith

Be filled with faith (Acts 6:5; 11:24)

Have sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5)

Abound in faith (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Abide in faith (Acts 14:22; Colossians 1:23)

Be strong in faith (Romans 4:20)

Stand fast in faith (1 Corinthians 16:13; Colossians 1:23)

Have faith with a good conscience (1 Timothy 1:19)

Pray that faith may increase (Luke 17:5)

Draw near to God in fullness of faith (Hebrews 10:22)

Verify faith with works (James 2:19-26)

Test yourself to see if in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Receive the one who is weak in faith (Romans 14:1)

Take the shield of faith (Ephesians 6:16)

Keep the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12)

Keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7)

Ask in faith (James 1:6)

Add virtue to faith (2 Peter 1:5)

Contend for the faith (Jude 3)