

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

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Know Your Bible: Answers

- 1. Ahaz (2 Kings 16:3, 10)
- 2. Ahab (1 Kings 18:1-2)
- 3. Shalmaneser (2 Kings 17:3-6)
- 4. Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:12-20)



Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap CORRUPTION, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap ETERNAL LIFE.

Galatians 6:7-8

This Week's Assignments & Events			
Sunday Worship		Sunday Afternoons	
Greeter:	Corwin Richardson	Jan 18	Nothing
Announcements:	John Van Baale		
Encouragement Talk:	Tyler Blazek	Jan 25	Classroom Quarter Change
Opening Prayer:	Kyle Crain		
Scripture Reading:	Aaron Emerson	Feb 1	Nothing
	Luke 18:9-17		
Song Leader:	Billy Lovell	Feb 8	3PM Song Leader Training
Table Talk:	John Franks		
Contribution:	Arturo Orozco		
Helper:	Sandon Spyker		
Fruit of Vine:	Josh Emerson		
Helper:	Leighton Daniels		
Helper:	Lester Mabry		
Closing Prayer:	Josh Emerson		
		Wednesday Evening	
		Song Leader:	Truett Blazek
		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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Iron Sharpening Iron

“Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17, NASB).
“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend” (King James).

The Need For Sharpening

The Hebrew word translated “sharpens” means “sharp, alert, keen” (Brown, Driver, Briggs Hebrew Dictionary). While the Proverb (above) is a general truth, Scripture clearly states our need to be spiritually sharp. “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8). “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:12).

Sadly, many are spiritually dull, failing to follow the instruction of Scripture. Listen to what Hebrews 6:11-12 says - “we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” The Greek word translated “sluggish” means “sluggish, lazy, stupid” (Strong’s), even “languid” (Thayer’s). Those who are “dull” fail to show diligence and therefore do not “realize the full assurance of hope.” They do not realize heaven.

God warns us of a need to be “sharp” (alert, watchful, diligent). And God has provided ways to help us remain “sharp.” The written word aids us in being diligent, if we will habitually read. Many (dare I say “most”) do not. Regular exposure to the truth forces us to examine ourselves and make application. If you desire to be “sharp,” be the man who “looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:25). Further, God provides a local congregation with a charge to elders and saints - “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account” (Hebrews 13:17). The need to be sharp is strongly taught in Scripture.

How Sharpening Occurs

Blades are sharpened purposefully. Dulling of a blade occurs through use and neglect. Similarly our sharpening occurs purposefully, and neglect is often to blame for our spiritual

dullness. The purposeful reading of Scripture has already been mentioned. We can also allow ‘iron to sharpen iron’ through attending regular Bible classes. The study of the one teaching the class will help to sharpen us, but even more our discussion of what we have studied will aid us. We are helped to a better understanding and application of Scripture. We are encouraged by the faith we see and hear from our brethren.

Even better is the sharpening that occurs in regular worship assembly participation. To see others worshipping God is an encouragement for us to be diligent in our service. God intends that we encourage one another when we assemble. This is accomplished when we teach and admonish one another in songs (Colossians 3:16). This is accomplished when men “*preach the word*” and they “*reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction*” (2 Timothy 4:2). When we regularly miss assemblies (as many do), we are not being sharpened. The attitude that would not take advantage of opportunities to worship and study with brethren is an attitude that fails to consider the importance of being diligent and sober.

We purposefully sharpen each other when we go to our brother about whom we are spiritually concerned. “*If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.*” (Matthew 18:15) God’s plan is that those who are spiritual are to restore the one caught in a trespass, but do so in “*a spirit of gentleness*” (Galatians 6:1). Iron sharpens iron. While it is a general truth, it is also God’s way among brethren. When we say encouraging words to one another and build up one another as 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says we should, we are sharpening each other to be diligent against Satan. God expects this of us, and we should expect it from our brethren, and expect it of ourselves.

Conclusion

Brethren grow weary of hearing preachers speak about lack of attendance to assemblies. Preachers get tired of preaching that same message. Forsaking the assemblies was a problem in the first century (Hebrews 10:25) and it still is today. Yes - our attendance has been below average the last two months, and (frankly) dismal at times on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. It is of great encouragement to me to be sharpened by those who are regularly present, but I am greatly concerned (as an evangelist and as an elder) about so many who seem to see no need to sharpen others or be sharpened. So many who seem to have no need to worship God or study and learn about His word.

I urge you to be sober and consider these things diligently.
(CLW)

***Know
Your
Bible***

Kings / Rulers

- 1. What evil king of Judah sacrificed his son and built a Syrian style altar in Jerusalem?
- 2. What king of Israel experienced a long famine and drought during his reign?
- 3. What Assyrian King defeated Samaria and deported Israelites to other countries?
- 4. What king was criticized by Isaiah for showing Judah’s treasure to Babylonian ambassadors?

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.



Peter’s Descriptions Of The Lord’s People

You are encouraged to study from each of the descriptions in this list. Try the following:

- (1) Explain the meaning of the description
- (2) Look in Scripture for similar uses
- (3) Make an application to yourself

“Obedient children” (1 Peter 1:14)

“Newborn babes” (1 Peter 2:2)

“Lively Stones” (1 Peter 2:5)

“A holy preisthood” (1 Peter 2:5)

“A chosen generation” (1 Peter 2:9)

“A holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9)

“A people for God’s own possession” (1 Peter 2:9)

“Dearly beloved” (1 Peter 2:11)

“Strangers and pilgrims” (1 Peter 2:11)

“The brotherhood” (1 Peter 2:17)

“Good stewards” (1 Peter 4:10)

“Flock of God” (1 Peter 5:2)