

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. Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15)
2. Ahijah (1 Kings 11:29–40)
3. Joel (2:28–32; Acts 2:17)
4. Zechariah

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Lester Mabry
Announcements: Josh Emerson
Encouragement Talk: John Franks
Opening Prayer: Billy Lovell
Scripture Reading: Corwin Richardson
Luke 19:11–27
Song Leader: Kevin Buckner
Table Talk: Leighton Daniels
Contribution: Tyler Blazek
Helper: Truett Blazek
Fruit of Vine: Billy Scherry
Helper: Kyle Crain
Helper: Aaron Emerson
Closing Prayer: John Van Baale

Sunday Afternoons

Feb 15 Nothing
Feb 22 Visitation Day
Mar 1 Nothing
Mar 8 3PM Devotionals

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Truett Blazek
Speaker: Tyler Blazek



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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Hated By The World

Jesus states in very strong language a description of the disciple’s relationship to the world. He was preparing the apostles for the work they were about to begin in teaching the gospel to every living creature. He warns they will be hated (John 15:18).

Not Of The World

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you” (John 15:19). The disciples of Christ do not live for the pleasures of this life. The sinful indulgences of the flesh are denied and condemned. The true disciples outlook is toward spiritual living. Just as Jesus called the apostles out of this world, so we have each been called out of the world to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:3-4).

The world hates those who live righteously. Their very lifestyle condemns those participating in sin. No one likes to be told they are wrong. It is much easier to hate the messenger than to examine ourselves. The world loves its own because they are not made to feel guilty. Everyone else is doing it, so it must not be wrong. Their conscience does not prick them.

The world’s hatred can be an outward evidence of true discipleship. “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way” (Luke 6:26). They love their own. When they all speak well of the disciple of Christ, it is a “woe”. Consider how others treat you. Are you receiving attention as a disciple like Jesus said?

A Slave Is Not Greater Than The Master

Jesus says this is a truth that should be remembered (John 15:20). As disciples we are not greater than Christ and therefore should not expect to be treated better than

He. If we are being treated better than He, perhaps we are not living as He did. Jesus said the world “*has hated Me before it hated you*” (John 15:18).

He goes on to say, “*If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also*” (John 15:20). Persecution and obedience to the spoken word are indicators of discipleship. Some will obey the word of God when taught, some will persecute the speaker, just as they persecuted Jesus. We should not expect different treatment nor be surprised when treated poorly.

They Do Not Know God

Because of their hard heart they will persecute, “*you for My name’s sake*” (John 15:21). Their lack of knowledge about God is their own fault. They “*have no excuse for their sin*” (John 15:22) because Jesus came and spoke to them. It is not that they have not heard the truth, but that they have rejected it.

If we fail to speak to others about sin they will never persecute us, but we must expect that persecution will come when we confront our friends and neighbors demonstrating their violation of God’s word.

It is then our friends will have the same choice as did the Jews in the time of Christ: “*They have seen and hated Me and My Father*” (John 15:24). When we read and study the truth about Jesus, when we recognize His miracles, we are given a choice to believe or not. Hatred is the result of rejecting the truth.

Conclusion

As Jesus’ disciple, are you hated by men? Or does everyone speak well of you? We need to consider our ways.

Charles Willis

***Know
Your
Bible***

Prophets

- 1. Which leader of Israel told of a coming prophet like himself?
- 2. This prophet foretold that Jeroboam would be king over ten tribes of Israel.
- 3. Which prophet told of the outpouring of God’s Spirit on all mankind?
- 4. This prophet, who lived in Jerusaelm after the Babylonian exile, had visions of a flying scroll and a gold lampstand.

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.



Elders and Deacons

Charles Willis

God has chosen to use men in the spread of the gospel. We are the “*earthen vessels*” that carry the message to others (2 Corinthians 4:7). We also see in scripture that God has chosen to use men in leading local congregations as both overseers and special servants. In many ways the wisdom of God is evident in this, however we must not fail to remember Elders and Deacons are also earthen vessels with faults and weaknesses.

The qualifications in scripture for Elders (1 Tim. 3, Titus 1) and Deacons (1 Tim. 3) are important. We are to see all of these traits in the men that are chosen from a congregation to fill these functions in the Lord’s Church. Sadly, some look to these qualifications and search for the “superman” who has all of these qualities in excess. In many congregations these “supermen” are not found and thus they operate with no elders (a failure to be scripturally organized). There are occasions when a congregation may not have qualified men, but that should not be normal. Too many congregations in America today are comprised of spiritual weaklings who have failed to grow and not develop themselves as Christian men! God intends for every congregation to have Elders and Deacons (Titus 1:5).

Rather than looking for the “superman” who excessively demonstrates every trait of the qualifications, we should more realistically look for a man who exhibits all of these qualities to some degree. God utilizes our differences in the Kingdom. “*The body is not one member, but many*” (1 Cor. 12:14) and Paul goes on to speak of the benefits of the different parts of the physical body (foot, hand, eye). The body (the Church) benefits from the differences. So it is that the local congregation benefits from Elders and Deacons who do not fit a “cookie cutter” personality. Some will be abundantly demonstrating one trait in the qualifications, while another may be weaker in that area. It does not mean the man is unqualified, but that he is a man with challenges and flaws that he also must work on (I do not speak of him sinning). I repeat, a man must meet the qualifications and I am not saying we should ignore any qualification.

At times we give voice to a belief that Elders cannot fail to be super abundant in an area. This is unrealistic thinking if we understand how God is using “earthen vessels”. They are men as we are. If we keep this in mind we are much more likely to follow the scriptural conduct of according them “*double honor*” who rule well, “*especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching*” (1 Tim. 5:17). This passage implies that we are still to honor those who are our Elders, even if they do not work “hard” at preaching and teaching – does it not? This may not be their area of abundant demonstration of a qualification, yet they are still qualified to be an Elder.

It is easy for all Christians to fall into the mindset of placing Elders and Deacons on a pedestal of expectation that is unreasonable, and frankly impossible because they are men. “*Let love of the brethren continue*” (Hebrews 13:1).