

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. John the Baptist (Mark 1:3)
2. John (Revelation 1:10)
3. Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:19)
4. Revelation (1:15)
5. Samuel (1 Samuel 3:3–14)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Aaron Emerson
Announcements: Tyler Blazek
Encouragement Talk: Jayson Richardson
Opening Prayer: Jordan Thomas
Scripture Reading: Truett Blazek
Luke 20:13–24
Song Leader: Billy Lovell
Table Talk: Jordan Thomas
Contribution: Arturo Orozco
Helper: Theo Edge
Fruit of Vine: Kevin Buckner
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Helper: Lester Mabry
Closing Prayer: Josh Emerson

Sunday Afternoons

March 15 Nothing
March 22 3PM Outdoor Work Day
March 29 Nothing
April 5 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Jordan Thomas
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

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The People Around Us

We must never forget that the world we live in has an influence upon us. It is an influence for evil, for those that live in the world are doing evil in the sight of God.

“Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals, and they forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them” (Judges 2:11-12). The Israelites failed to remove the Canaanites from the land. They remained an influence for evil throughout all their generations in causing the Israelites to sin. God warned the Israelites of this telling them to destroy the inhabitants (Joshua 9:24), but the people did not listen to the Lord or follow His commands.

“Ephraim mixes himself with the nations... strangers devour his strength, yet he does not know it... Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, yet they have not returned to the Lord their God, nor have they sought Him... So Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense” (Hosea 7:8-11). The same evil influence from the people around them struck the Israelites again. They were led astray and chose to mix themselves with the nations around them. They failed to realize how they had left the Lord and were behaving with no sense.

It is no different with us. We ARE influenced by the world we live in. Many Christians have chosen to mix themselves with the people around us. They have chosen to forsake the Lord in order to imbibe of the evil that is in the world. This is despite the warnings from God to each of us. “Come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you” (Heb. 6:17). This is a quotation from Isaiah 52:11, yet Paul, in 2 Corinthians, teaches us that we as Christians must understand this same principle that was taught to the Israelites. “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?” (2 Cor. 6:14-15). The

concept of not mixing ourselves with the people around us remains true for Christians.

This does not mean that we are to have NO contact with those in the world. *“I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother”* if he is living in sin (1 Cor. 5:9-11). We cannot go out of the world excluding ourselves in a monastery type environment. We are to be the light of the world (Matt. 6:14) which means we must live in the world!

We cannot be influenced by the world, by the people around us. They enjoy living in sin. We must despise sin. *“Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them”* (Eph. 5:11). *“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth”* (1 John 1:6).

It is difficult enough for us to remove the old man of sin and put on Christ as taught in Colossians 3. When we consider the influence of the people around us who are in the world it becomes even harder for us to live righteously and overcome temptations.

Thus we are led to see the importance of having godly influences in our lives. The people around us who are Christians also wield an influence. It is imperative that Christians spend time together, form friendships, become so close that we love each other deeply. This influence for good will work to counteract the influence of the world. This is a good work we can all do, and need to do.

When all is said and done, we are influenced by the thing we desire. Do we desire to please God?

Charles Willis

**Know
Your
Bible**

Voices

1. What New Testament person was the “voice crying in the wilderness”?
2. Who heard a voice that said, “write down what you see”?
3. Where did God speak to Moses in a voice like thunder?
4. What book says that the divine voice sounds like a waterfall?
5. What boy was sleeping near the Ark of the Covenant when he heard God’s voice calling to him?

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.



The Office Memo

Charles Willis

What would you think if I said some folks see more authority in an office memo than in the Bible? Even better, could you see this in some Christians? I fear it is true, but it should not be.

Attendance Required

The office memo might read: ‘a meeting of all personnel is scheduled for Friday morning at 8:30 a.m. All employees are expected to arrange their schedules to be present. Do not be late as the President of the Company will be speaking.’

Christians are good employees (or should be) and so we would be present and be early. But what would happen to the person who was not present, or one who arrived late? Certainly we would expect repercussions. How long would we expect an employer to retain a person who seldom attended required meetings?

Hebrews 10:25 says, *“not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”* Is this a command of God? Surely it is. How long will God be happy with me as His child if I seldom attend the assemblies, or habitually miss some of them?

Will we be one who sees more authority in an office memo than in the word of God?

Dress Code

The office memo might read: ‘In order to maintain a proper business atmosphere for our employees and customers, all personnel are expected to dress with decorum and modesty. No jeans, no tennis shoes, no mini skirts will be tolerated. Gentlemen are required to wear slacks and a tie while on the premises. Women are expected to wear skirts. Anyone failing to meet these requirements will be reprimanded.’

All of us would meet these expectations in order to remain employed, even if we did not agree with them. God has given a dress code for Christians. We are instructed to dress *“modestly”* (1 Tim. 2:9). Even if we do not agree, will we abide by God’s will or will we follow our own desires and the fashion trends of our society?

Conclusion

These are two good examples that I hope will cause us to think. Are we in fact giving more authority to something like an office memo than God’s word? All of us need to be in attendance to all of the assemblies, for we are God’s children. Let us dress and behave as those who belong to God. We must meet God’s expectations or suffer the consequences.

Charles Willis