

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. Joseph (Genesis 42:6)
2. Daniel (2:48)
3. Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 1:11)
4. Ethiopia (Acts 8:27)
5. Esther (2:17)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Casey Thomas
Announcements: Leighton Daniels
Encouragement Talk: Jayson Richardson
Opening Prayer: Kevin Buckner
Scripture Reading: Corwin Richardson
Luke 21:1-9
Song Leader: Billy Lovell
Table Talk: Jordan Thomas
Contribution: Arturo Orozco
Helper: Kyle Crain
Fruit of Vine: Tyler Blazek
Helper: Truett Blazek
Helper: Lester Mabry
Closing Prayer: Gary Tuttle

Sunday Afternoons

April 12 3PM Encouragement (cards/calls)
April 19 Nothing
April 26 Classroom Quarter Change
May 3 3PM Devotionals

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Josh Emerson
Speaker: Paul Hainline



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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Backsliding

Do you remember climbing the slide when you were a kid? I mean ignoring the ladder, and climbing up the incline? I remember slipping backward as I tried to go up. It was hard work to keep moving up the slope and so easy to give up and just slide down.

It's the same for living the Christian life. The upward call of God in Christ Jesus requires a continuous effort. Scripture refers to this as a war (Rom. 7:23), a fight (2 Tim. 4:7), and a struggle (Eph. 6:12). We must constantly be alert, sober and watchful that we do not slide backward by allowing ourselves to participate in sin. We sometimes feel it would be easier to just give up and slide backward – and some do.

Backsliding is a word found in Scripture. Hosea 11:7 says “*My people are bent toward backsliding*” (in the King James). The understanding is helped by the New American Standard translation which says, “*My people are bent on turning.*” Strong's definition of the Hebrew for “backsliding” means “apostasy.” You see when we choose to not move forward and begin to move backward we are moving away from God. It is a return to the world even if it is not a complete return to the world. It is an apostasy.

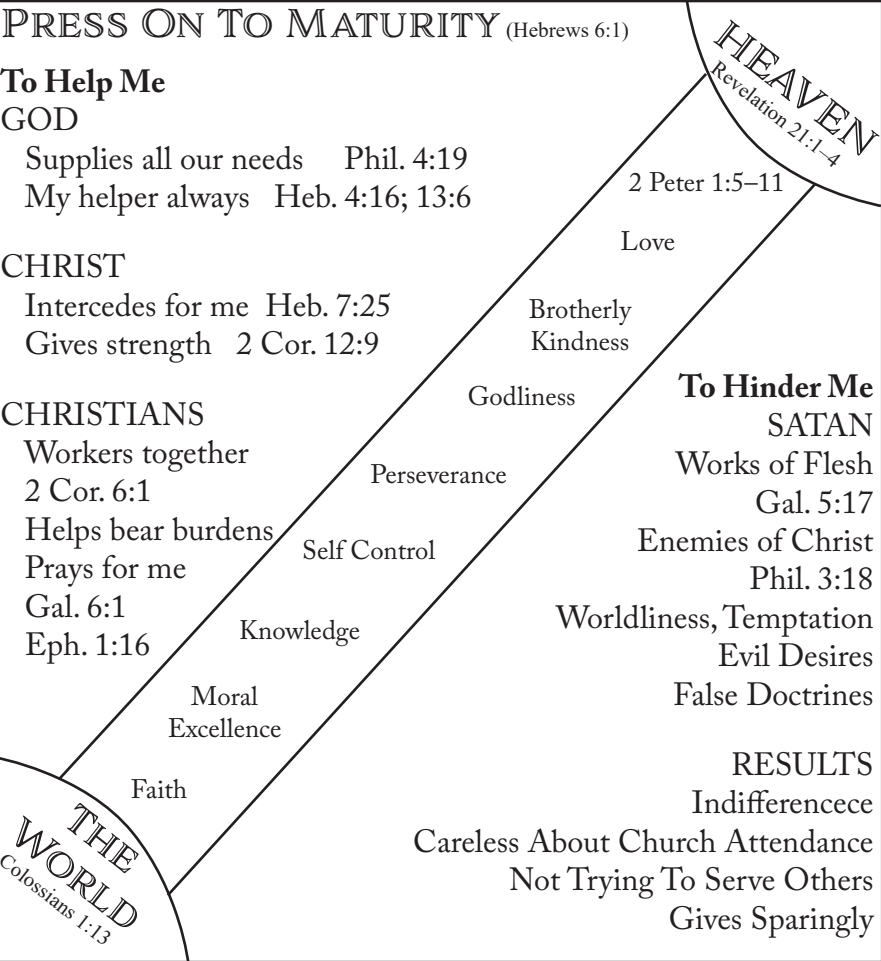
To understand the seriousness of what we are discussing, consider also how this same Hebrew word is used in Jeremiah 3:11, “*Faithless Israel has proved herself more righteous than treacherous Judah.*” The northern nation of Israel was faithless, backsliding, in apostasy. They were not serving God nor were they approved of God. Judah was in a worse state for she should have learned from the mistakes of Judah (Jer. 3:6-10). We also should learn from both their mistakes to not turn away from the Lord.

“*The backslider in heart will have his fill of his own ways*” (Prov. 14:14). Not that he will be satisfied, but that he will reap the reward of such ways. The judgment of God will surely rest upon the one who does not obey the gospel (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

What are we to do? Don't quit! Keep struggling, keep fighting and keep waging the war! Do not allow yourself to slip backward. The goal of heaven must be kept in view or else the appeal of the world will lead our heart to desire to slide to the bottom! It is the easier path, but also the one that leads to eternal destruction. *"Consider your ways"* (Haggai 1:7). *"Examine yourself"* (2 Cor. 13:8). *"Stand firm"* (Eph. 6:10-17). Do not desert Him who called us (Gal. 1:6) and instead *"walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil"* (Eph. 5:15-16).

Keep climbing! *"Keep yourselves in the love of God"* (Jude 21).

Charles Willis



- Know Your Bible**
- God's People In Government**
1. What Hebrew governed Egypt?
 2. What young Jew was made ruler over the whole province of Babylon?
 3. What Persian King did Nehemiah serve under?
 4. From what country was the eunuch that was baptized by Philip?
 5. What Jewish girl became queen of Persia?
- 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.

Zealous For What Is Good

Charles Willis

Some people are not zealous about anything. They plod through life with no spark or enthusiasm. There is no passion for anything. These lead a miserable life and they recognize the misery, but not the cause. Some are zealous for the wrong things and some are zealous without knowledge (Rom. 10:2). We need zeal (Rev. 3:19), but zeal for what is good.

"Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?" (1 Peter 3:13). We are concerned at times about what others think of us, so much so it prohibits our doing good. Peter says we should be proven to be zealous. When folks examine our words and actions, what drives us and what we are passionate about is doing good. No one can condemn us for doing good, so why be worried about harm. Peter continues, *"Even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed"* (1 Peter 3:14). God will bless us even if the world condemns His righteousness proven in our lives.

It is for this reason – proof of zeal for what is good – that Peter says to *"sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account of the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence"* (1 Peter 3:15). Anytime an opportunity is presented for us to proclaim the truth, we take it. It is further evidence of our zeal to do good. It is good to proclaim Christ. It is God's righteousness in our life. Being "ready to make a defense" stands as a proof of our zeal to all those whom we teach.

This being true, what are we proving when we are not ready to make a defense? What do we prove of our faith when we do not take advantage of opportunities? Rather than being recognized as a zealous follower of Christ we will be viewed as a timid or quasi-Christian. In reality there is no such thing, but this is the thinking of the world. There IS harm to us if we are not proven zealous for what is good (1 Peter 3:13). Harm in that our character is proven to be non-consistent. Harm to our influence in that we are proven to be hot and cold, depending on the circumstances. We open ourselves up as a target for backlash from friends who loudly denounce our hypocrisy. Who wants to learn spiritual truths from someone who constantly battles to be zealous for what is good? Beyond this is the harm from God who says we must be zealous.

If we are not being zealous for what is good, we must consider if we are being zealous for what is bad. Some people are zealous for sin. Their passion is involvement in sin. An example is the 'elderly church lady' who everyone recognizes as the town gossip. They claim to be a Christian, but their zeal has not been proven.

All of us must prove ourselves. This is only accomplished in this life. Of what are we zealous? Would others say we are zealous for what is good? Would God say this?

Jesus *"gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."* (Titus 2:14)