

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. Sisera (Judges 4:21)

2. Jonah (1:5)

3. Elijah (1 Kings 18:27)

4. David (1 Sam. 26:7)

5. Samson (Judges 16:19)

6. Eutychus (Acts 20:9–12)

This Week's Assignments & Events		
Sunday Worship	Sunday Afternoons	
Greeter: Aaron Emerson	April 5	Nothing
Announcements: John Franks		
Encouragement Talk: Paul Hainline	April 12	3PM Encouragement (cards/calls)
Opening Prayer: Billy Lovell		
Scripture Reading: Leighton Daniels	April 26	Classroom Quarter Change
Luke 20:40–47		
Song Leader: Kevin Buckner		
Table Talk: Josh Emerrson	May 3	3PM Devotionals
Contribution: Gary Tuttle		
Helper: Corwin Richardson		
Fruit of Vine: Jordan Thomas		
Helper: Sandon Spyker		
Helper: Verlin Wilson		
Closing Prayer: Kyle Crain		
	Wednesday Evening	
	Song Leader: John Franks	
	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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SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Relationships are habitual. We enter a relationship with a new friend and we develop it to a point of comfort and then we just want to coast. We tend to do the same things with that friend over and over (fishing buddy, shopping girlfriend). We seldom expand or grow that relationship into new areas. About the only time we really do that is when we are dating a person to the point of marriage, but even then many folks tend to stop growing the marriage relationship once they reach a point of “comfort.”

We are so accustomed to this we seldom even think about it, but we must consider it in our relationship with God. I see many Christians who reach a point of comfort and just stop. They want to keep doing the same things they’ve been doing, maintaining the relationship, but there is no spiritual growth.

I GOT MY CARD PUNCHED

One of the biggest problems in the mind of Christians today is a belief that attendance to worship assemblies makes me a faithful Christian. Sadly this is probably a result of congregations only exercising spiritual discipline in regard to attendance. The perception of many is that if I am a “practicing” Christian, God is pleased. I sometimes refer to this as the punch-card Christian. They got their card punched by attending worship, giving, partaking, and praying with the saints. Perhaps they think, “I’m good for the week.” Nothing could be farther from the truth.

STUDY

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). God’s approval is not through getting our card punched, but through our ability to handle the Word of truth! The King James has the right concept when it says to “study to show yourselves approved.” Through our study of scripture we should be able to know if we are living right. We are trying in this congregation to encourage people to study their Bibles.

We provide study materials, we offer classes to discuss the things we have studied, and we invite you to open your Bibles during the sermons. Some folks are not doing any of these. My personal fear is that they have grown comfortable in their relationship with God and do not see a need for any further growth. Read 2 Peter 3:18!

APPLY

Study is not enough either. Don't think you got your card punched just because you read a passage, or answered a question in preparation for a Bible class. We are to apply all diligence in supplying moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. *“For if these qualities are yours AND ARE INCREASING, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful...”* (2 Peter 1:5-8). This personal application of scripture is continuous. When you reach a point of comfort, study more to understand where you can still increase!

WORK

Finally, Paul tells us to be *“always abounding in the work of the Lord”* (1 Cor. 15:58). We are to be *“zealous of good deeds”* (Titus 2:14), be an *“example of good deeds”* (Titus 2:7), and *“be careful to engage in good deeds”* (Titus 3:8). God desires that each of be workers in the kingdom. Just sitting on a pew, just showing up for an assembly – this is not work – it's worship! This is when we praise God and observe the memorial from Christ. Christian work, which we are to always abound in, are things we do away from the assemblies. It can be a word spoken before or after the assembly, but primarily it is not done at the building.

CONCLUSION

Where is your relationship with God? Have you grown to the point of comfort and stopped? I pray that you are working in the kingdom, studying His word and applying His truth to your character and conduct. This is the only way to please God. We must not deceive ourselves, or grow complacent in our service and devotion. I urge you brethren to examine yourselves.

By Charles Willis

***Know
Your
Bible***

Sleepers

- 1. Who was killed as he slept in the tent of Jael?
- 2. Who slept in the bottom of a ship as it rolled in a storm?
- 3. Who suggested to Jezebel's priests that Baal was sleeping on duty?
- 4. Who sneaked into Saul's camp while he was asleep?
- 5. Who slept through a haircut?
- 6. Who fell asleep during Paul's sermon?

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.



What! No Special Programs?

Bobby Witherington

Visitors to our assemblies are sometimes amazed (and maybe disappointed) to learn that this congregation does not have a special youth program. Nor a kitchen. Not even a bus ministry.

Do we have something against young people? Or kitchens? Or busses? Not at all. We have several young people, each of whom we appreciate greatly. Beside that, every member of this church either is, or used to be young. Obviously we have nothing against kitchens. In fact, I do not know of a family among us who does not have access to a kitchen. In view of the fact that several of our children ride busses every day, it is apparent that we do not have anything against busses.

Nevertheless, this congregation has never hired a youth minister, built a kitchen, nor owned a bus. In view of the fact that the private life of each individual member of this church is living proof that not one of us opposes young people, kitchens, or busses, why is it that we as a collective unit, each acting in concert with the rest, have never developed a special youth program, built a fellowship hall, or bought a bus?

The answer is partially and indirectly given in the preceding paragraph. You see, we recognize a difference between the individual Christian and the local church. Scripture recognizes this difference also, for in I Corinthians 12:14 Paul said, *“the body is not one member, but many.”* If the body is the church, and it is (Ephesians 1:22-23), and *“the body is not one member,”* then no individual member is the church. In fact, the difference between the individual member and the church is illustrated in Matthew 18:15-17. In these verses we observe individual action, the action of a plurality of members, and church or group action.

Let the church be the church! Let us make certain that church work is indeed church work – as is enjoined upon the church in the scriptures. Otherwise, the designation “church of Christ” is misleading, for it attaches the name of Christ to that of which He is not the Author. Remember that if it takes food, fun and frolic to reach the young people, it will take the same to keep them. What people are converted by, they are converted to. And in the fun and games department, we cannot offer them a single thing which cannot also be offered equally as well by any man-made denomination.

On the other hand, God's drawing and converting power is His word (John 6:44-45; Romans 1:16). Those who are reached and kept by any-thing else may be converted –but they are not converted to the Lord. Brethren should be extremely dubious of any activity which will visibly swell their ranks but which will not bring a corresponding increase in spirituality, nor add to the number enrolled in the book of life. And if we reach people by any means other than the gospel, they and we) may get excited, but they will not be converted, nor will their names be “written in heaven.” But ours might be “blotted out!”