

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. Rachel (Genesis 31:19)
2. Barabbas (John 18:40)
3. Achan (Joshua 7:10–26)
4. Judas (John 12:4–6)
5. His silver cup (Genesis 44:1–17)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Jordan Thomas
Announcements: Paul Hainline
Encouragement Talk: Arturo Orozco
Opening Prayer: Kyle Crain
Scripture Reading: Kevin Buckner
Luke 21:29–33
Song Leader: John Franks
Table Talk: Ronnie Ramsey
Contribution: Aaron Heald
Helper: Theo Edge
Fruit of Vine: Billy Scherry
Helper: Jordan Thomas
Helper: Leighton Daniels
Closing Prayer: Josh Emerson

Sunday Afternoons

May 3 3PM Devotionals
May 10 Nothing
May 17 Nothing
May 24 Indoor Work Day

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Corwin Richardson
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

Volume 23
Number 18
May 3, 2026

When Complacency Replaces Sacrifice

Paul urged the church in Rome to “*present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*” (Romans 12:1). This was not a new commandment, but rather the focus of Christ’s life, teachings, and eventual agonizing death on the cross. He was the first to present his body as a “*living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God*” because that was His “*spiritual service of worship*” (John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8) Therefore, it is only right that his followers be willing to do the same (Matt. 16:24).

As we read through the New Testament, we find first-century saints following in Christ’s footsteps. They sacrificed their jobs (Mk. 1:16-20; 10:28; etc.), physical possessions (Acts 2:45; 4:36-37); money (Acts 11:29; 1 Cor. 16:1-3), former religious training (Phil. 3:4-7), and, as with Stephen (Acts 7:58-60), James (Acts 12:2) and nameless others (Acts 22:4; 26:9-11), even their physical lives. Their willingness to sacrifice everything for the cause of Christ brought glory to His name, converts into His church, and “turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6).

Unfortunately, such sacrificial living is becoming increasingly less common in twenty-first century churches everywhere. We are dying for lack of willingness to live and die for Him (Matt. 10:37-39). If we don’t do something immediately to restore our sacrificial heritage, many local congregations will become like Sardis, of who Jesus through John wrote: “*I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead*” (Rev. 3:1). How can we avoid the same fate as Sardis? “*Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die, for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God*” (Rev. 3:2). Simply put, we need to realize our deeds are not, and will never be, completed until we leave this world for the next. If we consider our deeds completed, we become useless to our Lord.

Spiritual complacency is one of the most debilitating and damaging attitudes a body

of saints can adopt. Webster defines complacency as: “a feeling of quiet pleasure or security, often while unaware of some potential danger, defect, or the like; self satisfaction with an existing situation, condition, etc.”. Christians cannot be complacent about their mission or that of His church.

God’s people should never be satisfied with their understanding of His word (2 Tim. 2:15; Psalm 1), number of teachers developed (2 Tim. 1:1-2), number of sinners saved (Rom. 10:11-15; 2 Pet. 3:9), amount of worship, praise and prayers offered (Heb. 13:15; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 1 Thess. 5:17), etc. Once we determine we’ve studied enough, taught enough, converted enough, and worshipped, praised or prayed enough, we’re saying our obligation to God is paid in full. May it never be! *“But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raise us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith” and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God*” (Eph. 2:4-8).

The future of the Lord’s church depends on devoted, unselfish, self-sacrificing Christians willing to live and give their lives in service to Christ. Men and women who need a Savior are depending on us to show them the way. How can we be complacent about their souls? Let us renew our commitment to Christ and recapture our willingness to sacrifice anything and everything in service to Him. Let’s “turn the world upside down”, for this is our “spiritual service of worship.” After all, didn’t Jesus sacrifice everything for us?

Frank Macy

***Know
Your
Bible***

Thieves

1. Who stole idols from her father?
2. What robber was released from prison at the time of the Passover?
3. Who was stoned for stealing things under the ban from Jericho?
4. What disciple stole from the treasury?
5. What did Joseph accuse his brothers of stealing?

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 Christian. 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