

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. Caleb (Joshua 14:6–13)
2. Uruah (2 Samuel 11:3)
3. John (19:34)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Truett Blazek  
Announcements: Jordan Thomas  
Encouragement Talk: Arturo Orozco  
Opening Prayer: Leighton Daniels  
Scripture Reading: Corwin Richardson  
Luke 23:13–19  
Song Leader: Billy Lovell  
Table Talk: Paul Hainline  
Contribution: Tyler Blazek  
Helper: Truett Blazek  
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale  
Helper: Kevin Buckner  
Helper: Lester Mabry  
Closing Prayer: Jason Richardson

Sunday Afternoons

July 26 3PM Classroom Quarter Change  
Aug 2 Nothing  
Aug 9 Nothing  
Aug 16 3PM Devotionals

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Truett Blazek  
Speaker: John Franks



# 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 30  
July 26, 2026

## Dull Of Hearing

*“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard of interpretation, seeing you have become dull of hearing. For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that someone teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God, and have become such as have need of milk and not of solid food” (Heb. 5:11ff).*

Hebrews 5:11 is a continuing thought, tied to the preceding phrase where of Jesus is said to be *“named of God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek” (Heb. 5:10)*. The Hebrew writer affirmed that he had many things to say about Christ and His priesthood but such would prove hard of interpretation (hard of understanding) because his readers had become dull of hearing. He does not say that what he had to say about Christ’s priesthood was hard to understand; the Hebrews would have difficulty understanding because of their own mental block – dullness of perception.

Isaiah had warned of the dangers of this mental malady which troubled his own nation. The problem plagued Jesus’ generation for He explained his “shift” to speaking in parables by quoting Isaiah: *“by hearing ye shall hear; and shall in no wise understand, and seeing ye shall see, and shall in no wise perceive: for this people’s heart is waxed gross and their ears are dull of hearing, lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and should turn again and I should heal them”* (Matt. 13:14ff; Is. 6:9ff). This citation from Isaiah is found in all the gospels and quoted by Paul when he received a mixed reception from those he preached to in Rome (Mk 5:12; Lk 8:10; Jn 12:40; Acts 28:6). In all these passages it is apparent that the difficulty of understanding the word lay not with the word, but with the hearer.

Sometimes the problem in understanding arises because one’s mind is filled with care and other matters and the word cannot thrive in that heart.

Although Moses assured Israel God would *“bring you in unto the land which*

*I sware to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,” Israel “hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit and for cruel bondage” (Ex. 6:8ff). In Jesus’ parable of the sower, He spoke of the failure of the seed to be fruitful because “the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word” (Matt. 13:22).*

Sometimes men fail to understand because they see an implication not intended. Once *“the disciples came to the other side and forgot to take bread and Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees and they reasoned among themselves, we took no bread. And Jesus perceiving it, said, ‘ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because we have no bread? Do ye not perceive, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets ye took up...?’” (Matt. 16:7-9).*

Likely the most frequent reason for dullness in hearing is seen in God’s statement to Ezekiel. *“Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face. Should I be inquired at all by them?” (Ezek. 14:3).* Whatever the reasons for the dullness of heart of the Hebrews, the fault lay within themselves, not with God.

The Hebrews had regressed: gone backward rather than forward. Instead of advancing in grace and knowledge as all Christians should, when they ought by reason of time to have been teaching others, they had need that someone teach them even the basic elements of the gospel. How sad! The Hebrews had reverted to infancy. They could not tolerate strong meat but required milk. Dullness of hearing was a shameful thing to them.

A sobering question to those of us who have been members of the church for many years should be, “Are we as the Hebrews”? Are we, who have long been part of Christ’s body, not only able, but actually teaching others the gospel of Christ? Or, perish the thought, are we still babies?!

By Jim McDonald

**Know  
Your  
Bible**

**Soldiers**

1. What loyal Israelites soldier gave Joshua a positive report about the land of Canaan?
2. What Hittite soldier was put on the front lines of battle so David could take his wife?
3. Which gospel is the only one to mention the Roman soldier piercing Jesus’ side with a spear?
4. What leper was commander of the Syrian troops?

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 Lord Is In Your Midst

By Rickie Jenkins

*“The Lord your God is in the midst of you, a Mighty One, a Savior (Who saves)! He will rejoice over you with joy; He will rest (in silent satisfaction) and in His love he will be silent and make no mention (of past sins or even recall them); He will exult over you with singing” (Zephaniah 3:17, AMP).*

Zephaniah and Jeremiah began in the same year. Both prophesied during the reign of Josiah. Hezekiah had been succeeded by his son Manasseh. What followed was fifty-five years of some of the darkest history of Judah, followed by two more years of dark history by Manasseh’s son Ammon. After Ammon’s death, Josiah took the throne at age eight. Things in Judah were not good when Zephaniah prophesied. Moral corruption was widespread; luxury and extravagance were everywhere. What was offered to Jehovah was little more than idolatry. In the midst of all the judgment that Zephaniah gives he now comes to say how God feels about His people when they return.

**Notice first, “The Lord God is in the midst of you, a mighty one who saves.”** God now reigns as their king. Their salvation is assured. What a comfort! How encouraging. They had come from judgment, now to salvation. Zephaniah says the enemy has been cast out and judgment taken away and the people rejoice (3:14-17). Why did they rejoice? God saves. Can we not see the great joy of our salvation? Can we not see that we being captive to the evil one, have been redeemed by A Mighty Savior? Can we not see that when He redeems us he is in our midst? He is with us! The evil one is cast out. He is defeated. By Whom? A Mighty One, A Savior! That should give us great faith and great courage.

**Second, notice how God feels about His redeemed,** “He will rejoice over you with joy; He will rest (in silent satisfaction) and in His love he will be silent and make no mention (of past sins or even recall them)...” God rejoices over you with joy! He rests in silent satisfaction. When you know you have done something well, you breathe a deep sigh of great satisfaction. Picture God looking at His redeemed with great joy and taking a deep breath and giving a great sigh of satisfaction over you. He rests in the silence of His love and makes no mention of past sins. We might mention them and others may never let us forget them but He doesn’t even mention them. He has forgiven them to the uttermost. How does that make you feel as His child?

**Third, “He will exult over you with singing.”** Awesome! God rests in the silence of His love, with deep satisfaction over you and He exults with singing. The word “exult” means God jumps up and down with excitement and sings. This expresses the love, esteem and value God has of His children. Think about it! You! You! His children! God jumps up and down and sings because you are His. What a picture! The next time you think about how hard it is to live righteously remember how God views you.

Any time one is saved it is by the “Mighty One, A Savior, the Lord is with you.” When God saves you, He rests in silent satisfaction and silent joy. He makes no mention of the sins that led you away from Him; He jumps up and down with joy, singing about you, His child. That will lift you up!