

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. Abner

2. Sisera (Judges 4:2)

3. Joshua (Exodus 17:10)

4. Joab (2 Samuel 8:16)

5. Jehu (2 Kings 9:1–11)

This Week's Assignments & Events	
Sunday Worship	Sunday Afternoons
Greeter: Kemarui Bluit	Aug 9 Nothing
Announcements: John Franks	
Encouragement Talk: Jason Richardson	Aug 16 3PM Devotionals
Opening Prayer: Kyle Crain	
Scripture Reading: Aaron Emerson	Aug 23 3PM Visitation Day
Luke 23:26–32	
Song Leader: Jordan Thomas	Aug 30 Nothing
Table Talk: Josh Emerson	
Contribution: Gary Tuttle	
Helper: Corwin Richardson	
Fruit of Vine: Tyler Blazek	Wednesday Evening
Helper: Truett Blazek	Song Leader: Jordan Thomas
Helper: Aaron Heald	Speaker: Tyler Blazek
Closing Prayer: Billy Lovell	



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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Fighting The Good Fight

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7).

Paul believed his life was nearing its end (2 Tim. 4:6) and made these claims as he looked back in review at how he had lived. He saw his faithfulness and great effort in proclaiming the truth. No one would ever accuse the Apostle Paul of not doing the work of an evangelist.

Fighting The Fight

I think our attitudes about living as a Christian are often too care free. We live in a country of ease and plenty, and we are quick to make everything we do easy and carefree.

Paul’s language indicates we are in a fight! There is a battle to be won. He frequently employs imagery of soldiers in his encouragements. Earlier in 2 Timothy he wrote, *“suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier”* (v.3–4).

Preachers are not the only soldiers. Ephesians 6 demands we all put on the gospel armor so that we might defeat Satan. All Christians are in this fight! It is a fight for our own soul. It is a fight for the furtherance of the gospel. It is a fight to make known truth in the face of error.

Our attitude must be one of a soldier. We prepare for the time when we will enter combat. We study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15). We *“continue in the things”* we *“have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom”* we *“have learned them”* (2 Tim. 3:14). We prepare our minds to defeat temptation and to overcome the false teacher and doctrines that oppose truth. Like preachers, all men must *“be sober in all things and endure hardship”* (2 Tim. 4:5). Not to fulfill a ministry, but to be righteous before God.

Finish The Course

It's one thing to be ready for the fight, it's something else to see it through to the end. We must be prepared and willing to follow through with an application of our training in righteousness. Some who are turned aside to myths (2 Tim. 4:4) will challenge us regarding the truth. We must stand firm in the faith teaching *"in season and out of season"* with great patience (2 Tim. 4:2).

These verses have more application for evangelists, but they do have applications for all Christians. Each of us must finish the course. This means we must be fighting the fight all our life. What is the fight? It is a stand for the truth and the application of truth in our own life. Living right and teaching right as God defines it. Paul says he has done this, and we should follow his example.

Finishing the course requires perseverance. It will not always be easy. Paul received 39 stripes on three occasions because of his stand for the truth (2 Cor. 11:24). Many other things were endured by Paul, things of a personal nature like attacks on his validity as a Apostle, attacks on his motivations, attacks on the severity of his writing. Do we think we will have a life of ease as a Christian? Not if we are fighting the fight. The fight must be endured!

Keep The Faith

I believe this is Paul's personal remark of his faithfulness in applying the word of God to himself. We must each keep the faith. Many will do great things in the name of Jesus but will not have made application to themselves. It is good to study and learn the ways of God, but book knowledge will not save us unless it is applied.

Keeping the faith is obedience to God. It is seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33). His righteousness is how we live. We will have to fight the good fight, and we will have to endure to the end of the course, but if we fail to make applications it will have all been in vain.

Conclusion

Can we look back at our life like Paul did and make these three affirmations?

By Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Military

1. What cousin of King Saul was the commander of the troops?
2. What Canaanite commander was murdered by Jael?
3. Who was commander of the army under Moses?
4. Who was the commander of King David's army?
5. What army commander was anointed by a prophet and told to stamp out Ahab's dynasty?

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.



Knowing God Through Creation

Series #1 of 5

Many in the world argue we cannot know if God exists because we cannot see Him. Reliance on science and substantive proof is required by many before they will believe. Jesus said, *"Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed"* (John 20:29).

Consider though how many people believe in electricity. Rustin Bergren (an electrical engineer) writes, "There are a couple reasons you cannot directly see electricity. The first reason is because electricity is a phenomenon, not a physical object. We observe certain phenomena in nature through their interaction with physical objects (which we can see). Take the phenomenon of gravity, for example. You cannot technically 'see' gravity, though, you can observe objects that fall to the ground or cannonballs/projectiles that follow a trajectory suggestive of force 'pulling' them to the earth" (<https://www.quora.com/Why-cant-you-see-electricity>). The acceptance of electricity is so common place in our society, we think man fully understands it, though he does not. We just place our trust and confidence in it while not yet fully understanding it.

God does exist, and the evidence is present if we care to look. Like electricity, He is not a physical object. He is not a "phenomenon," but *"is spirit"* (John 4:24). We can observe his interaction with physical objects in nature. *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made"* (Romans 1:20). *"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world"* (Psalm 19:1-4).

"In the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts" (2 Peter 3:3). The realities of God *"escapes their notice"* (2 Peter 3:5). His attributes, as seen in the creation, means that all men *"are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened"* (Romans 1:20-21).

We can KNOW God exists. The creation testifies of Him. Will we honor Him and give thanks, or will He escape our notice because of our lusts?