

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. Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:3)

2. Joseph (Genesis 41:45)

3. Death (Deuteronomy 17:12)

4. Zacharias (Luke 1:20)

5. A turban (Exodus 28:39)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Lester Mabry

Announcements: John Van Baale

Encouragement Talk: Kevin Buckner

Opening Prayer: Kyle Crain

Scripture Reading: Truett Blazek
Luke 24:13–27

Song Leader: Josh Emerson

Table Talk: Charles Willis

Contribution: Arturo Orozco

Helper: Kemauri Bluit

Fruit of Vine: Billy Lovell

Helper: Corwin Richardson

Helper: Gobi Warner

Closing Prayer: Ronnie Ramsey

Sunday Afternoons

Sept 20 Nothing

Sept 27 3pm Encouragement (cards/calls)

Oct 4 Nothing

Oct 11 Visitation Day

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Aaron Emerson

Speaker: Tyler Balzek



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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Hardheadedness

There is nothing more frustrating than trying to teach a hard headed child. They think they know which way is right, which way is best, some even think the subject is not important. This stubbornness is readily seen in their stance and attitude. They refuse to listen, not paying attention to any of the instructions. Though the teacher repeats the instructions multiple times, the hard headed child has no clue as to what is expected and truly does not care. Probably all of us have been hard headed to some degree in our life. This extreme stubbornness gets us in trouble with our parents, and with our spouses. For some it creates problems at work.

God grows weary of dealing with hardheadedness. His children, the Israelites, created many problems in their relationship with God because of their great stubbornness. Consider God’s word’s to the prophet Ezekiel when he was called by God: *“Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them...I have sent you to them who should listen to you; yet the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, since they are not willing to listen to Me. Surely the whole house of Israel is stubborn and obstinate. Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. Like emery harder than flint I have made your forehead. Do not be afraid of them or be dismayed before them, though they are a rebellious house...Go to the exiles, to the sons of your people, and speak to them and tell them, whether they listen or not, ‘Thus says the Lord God’”* (Ezek. 3:4-11). God’s children were obstinate and stubborn, refusing to listen. As a parent, I know some of God’s feelings towards the Israelites because my children were at times hardheaded, just as I am sure I have been. They should have listened but refused. They did not want to hear what God wanted to tell them. They were not interested in hearing the truth. They just wanted God to leave them alone.

It is almost humorous that God says he made Ezekiel more hardheaded than the Israelites, *“like emery harder than flint”*. Ezekiel was to deliver God’s message to the children of Israel, whether they listened or not. Surely Ezekiel would have to

endure a lot of moaning, groaning and complaining from these folks who did not want to listen. Surely there were threats spoken against him. God told him not to be afraid or dismayed at their stubbornness. Ezekiel carried out the will of God.

We must be certain that we do not develop a hardheadedness which refuses to listen to the message of God. Look again at God’s attitude: *“when I speak to you, I will open your mouth and you will say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God’. He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house”* (Ezek. 3:27). God puts the message before us. We can hear it if we want, or we can reject it. We must not grow stubborn in our belief we are right, but constantly hear God’s word.

We also need to develop some of the hardheadedness of Ezekiel to preach the truth to folks whether they listen or not. In many ways every Christian is the spokesperson of God. Do not be afraid or dismayed before them. We must stubbornly hold fast to the truth, no matter what the world says or thinks.

By Charles Willis

PRECIOUS

“you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ”
(1 Peter 1:18–19)

“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust” (2 Peter 1:4)

“Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God” (1 Peter 3:3–4)

ARE THESE PRECIOUS TO US?

Know Your Bible

Priests

1. What priest in Scripture is said to have no mother or father?
2. Which Hebrew married the daughter of an Egyptian priest?
3. What was the penalty in Israel for disobeying a priest?
4. What priest was made mute because he did not believe the prophecy given by an angel?
5. What kind of a head covering did the priest wear?

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.



All That Is In The World

By Pat Farrish

John writes *“Do not love the world, or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions – is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever”* (1 John 2:15-17).

As we seek to resist “worldliness”, we are helped by these words of John; he says that *“the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions”* are all that is in the world. When the devil tempted Eve in the Garden, he used these in this way, Genesis 3:6: the desires of the flesh (*“good for food”*), desires of the eyes (*“a delight to the eyes”*), and pride in possessions (*“to be desired to make one wise”*).

When the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Luke 4:1-13, he employed similar tactics: the desires of the flesh (*“he was hungry”*); the desires of the eyes (*“showed him ...”*); and pride in possessions (*“If you are the Son of God ...”*).

In these two notable instances, the devil took his best shots at Eve, and the Lord. He succeeded with Eve; he was rebuffed by Jesus. He had brought to bear on them, according to the apostle John, *“all that is in the world”*. When you or I are tempted, it is going to be in at least one of these areas, flesh, eyes, pride.

Some believe that *“desires of the flesh ... eyes ... and pride in possessions”* are not *“all that is in the world”*. J. W. Roberts, in his commentary The Letters Of John (R. B. Sweet Co.), writes “The three things he enumerates as the things of the world which we are not to love are probably intended to be illustrations and not a complete description ... these three avenues no more exhaust the sources of temptation than are they a complete description of all sin” (page 57). These three avenues do not “exhaust the sources of temptation?” It would have been helpful if the writer had seen fit to name for us just one more such source. This, however, is the usual state of the discussion: cannot be just three; but does not name a fourth.

More ominous, however, is the rejection of the language of John. John wrote of the three areas of temptation that they are all that is in the world. Human wisdom may scoff at the notion, but it was the Holy Spirit who gave John the word *“all.”* The dictionary defines “all” as “the whole of.” These areas of temptations are “the whole of” the world, the devil’s domain.

The devil tempts us to sin (Matthew 4:1-3). We are to resist him (James 4:7) with the confidence that we will not be tempted unbearably (1 Corinthians 10:13). A significant part of our resistance is awareness of the enemy’s tactics. If “forewarned is forearmed” by girding ourselves against these avenues of sinful desire - “all that is in the world” - we are equipped to resist. God did not need to name each sin. He classifies them and expects us to prepare.

We should not love the world, because *“the world is passing away along with its desires.”* This looks at temporary things, at things that will not last; but the wisdom that is from above calls for us to know that *“whoever does the will of God abides forever.”*