

Family Matters

ILLNESS

- Ronnie Lightfoot is scheulded for back surgery November 17. Prayers are requested.
- Mary and Ronnie Ramsey continue with some health issues. Please pray for them.
- Continue to pray for Victor Studdard, Barbara Wall, and J. R. Rose-Graham as they deal with on-going health concerns.
- Homebound: Jim Wallis, Barbara Green, Stephen Cooper. In care facilities: Jo Ann Willis.

TODAY - Visitation Day

AREA MEETING

Oct. 18-22 Northeast (in Crosby) with Elijah Dean

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. Zechariah (Luke 1:5)

2. Zadok (1 Kings 1:45)

3. Sceva (Acts 19:14)

4. Levi (Exodus 4:14)

5. Ciaphas (Matthew 26:62)

This Week's Assignments & Events			
Sunday Worship		Sunday Afternoons	
Greeter:	Lester Mabry	Oct 11	3PM Visitation Day
Announcements:	John Franks		
Encouragement Talk:	Josh Emerson	Oct 18	Nothing
Opening Prayer:	Kyle Crain		
Scripture Reading:	Aaron Emerson	Oct 25	3PM Classroom Quarter Change
	Luke 24:44-53		
Song Leader:	Kevin Buckner		
Table Talk:	Arturo Orozco		
Contribution:	Paul Hainline	Nov 1	3PM Devotionals
Helper:	Gobi Warner		
Fruit of Vine:	John Van Baale		
Helper:	Kemauri Bluitt		
Helper:	Verlin Wilson		
Closing Prayer:	Ronnie Ramsey		
		Wednesday Evening	
		Song Leader:	Kevin Buckner
		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

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Fix Your Hope

"Prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:13)

The phrase "fix your hope" comes from one Greek word: elpizo (Strong's #1679) meaning, 1) to hope, in a religious sense, to wait for salvation with joy and full confidence; 2) hopefully to trust in. Peter tells us to await the coming of the Lord with confidence, so much so that our focus is on that event. It is a way of speaking of our goals in this life. The concern is not so much about the suffering or difficulties associated with life in this world, but awaiting the reward promised to the faithful in the life to come. He says we are to fix our hope completely on this. Nothing is more important.

He goes on instructing us "as obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance" (1 Pet. 1:14). Those who have fixed their hope on the coming of Christ will not conform to their lusts, but to the will of God. These are former lusts – not lusts of the present. What we lust for now is the approval of God.

Therefore, be "like the holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy"" (1 Pet. 1:15-16). The reason we live in obedience to God, the reason we deny ourselves is because our hope is fixed! We await salvation with joy and confidence. If we are NOT living holy in our behavior, then we do not have our hope fixed – no matter what else we might do or think. Those who have not gained control over their lusts but instead are living in their former lusts, these have no confidence in their salvation. Their hope is not fixed, even if they have deceived themselves.

An example of this is seen in 1 Timothy 6:17 which says, "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy". This is the same Greek word

found in 1 Peter 1:13. Some have their hope fixed on the wrong things, in particular, “riches”. They trust in their riches with hope and confidence. Their conceit is obvious because of their confidence in their savings, investments and retirement accounts. Their goals and concerns are about this life rather than fixing their hope “on God”. God is able to richly provide all things in this life and more so in the life to come. We must come to see that fixing our hope on anything other than God is foolish.

Paul teaches Timothy and us in saying, *“bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come”* (1 Tim. 4:8). He proceeds to demonstrate his point by saying, *“It is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers”* (1 Tim. 4:10).

Men readily see the need to exercise and diet in order to maintain the physical body. Seldom do we see a similar devotion to spiritual development, what Paul calls “godliness”. If our hope is fixed on the living God, we will see the necessity and importance of spiritual maintenance and development. The spiritual things will be seen to be of much more value than the bodily exercise for the spirit lives after this body is dead. God lives. Our hope should be fixed on Him for He gives life!

A final passage to consider: *“We had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us”* (2 Corinthians 1:9-10). Again, this phrase is the same Greek word we have been examining. It is comparable in this opening to *“not trust in ourselves”* (v.9). Rather than trusting in themselves for deliverance, their hope was fixed on God, for God can do anything. He will deliver us.

What are you fixed on? What goals are you focused on? If your hope is not fixed on God’s salvation, then I suggest you examine your priorities. Paul says, “Godliness is profitable for all things”.
By Charles Willis

***Know
Your
Bible***

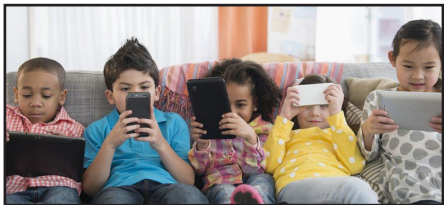
Priests

1. What priest was the father of John the Baptist?
2. What priest anointed Solomon as king?
3. What priest had 7 sons who were casting out demons in the name of Jesus?
4. What tribe of Israel did all the priests come from?
5. What priest examined Jesus before the Sanhedrin council?

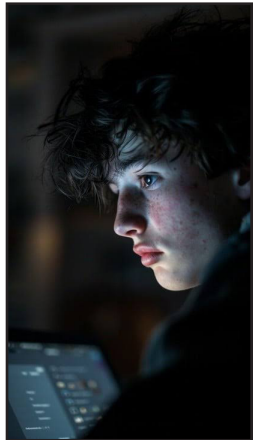
Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



Which of these...



has more influence



in your home?