

**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***

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**Know Your Bible: Answers**

1. Agrippa (Acts 26:28)
2. Pilate (John 18:38)
3. Nicodemus (John 3:4)
4. The daughter of Herodius (Matthew 14:8)
5. Jesus (Mark 10:9)

**This Week's Assignments & Events**

**Sunday Worship**

Greeter: John Van Baale  
Announcements: Todd McAdams  
Encouragement Talk: Tyler Blazek  
Opening Prayer: Eddie Bowen  
Scripture Reading: Josh Emerson  
2 Timothy 2:20–26  
Song Leader: Harper Flores  
Table Talk: Arturo Orozco  
Contribution: John Franks  
Helper: Joel Fordan  
Fruit of Vine: Billy Lovell  
Helper: Sandon Spyker  
Helper: Jacob McAdams  
Closing Prayer: Scott McDearman

**Sunday Afternoons**

May 5 3PM Men's Meeting  
May 12 Nothing  
May 19 3PM Devotionals  
May 26 Parent Planned Youth Devotional

**Wednesday Evening**

Song Leader: Todd McAdams  
Speaker: Jacob McAdams



# 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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## The Proof Of Your Faith

We say of some people, “they have something to prove.” We mean they are working hard to demonstrate their ability or tenacity. We speak of someone proving their loyalty to a company or a relationship. Scripture also speaks in this way about our faith.

*“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 1:6–7). What is the proof of our faith? The context is about “various trials” and being “tested by fire.” The proof of faith is that we did not give in to temptation. We did not quit living righteously. We did not stop believing and obeying God during the test. We endured, and persevered. The “proof of our faith” (our obedience) will result in praise, glory and honor when Christ returns. This is about God’s gift of eternal life to those who are faithful.

James speaks of this as well, saying *“prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves”* (James 1:22). It is one thing to say I believe what God says, and it is something else to prove it in our actions. *“Faith without works is dead”* (James 2:26). To claim belief and not obey proves we do not believe. We can easily delude ourselves. This is prevented if we keep strongly in our mind the need to “prove ourselves.” We must demonstrate in our life by our actions that we believe God’s word. We must prove this in our obedience.

This is borne out in other passages. *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect”* (Romans 12:2). I prove what the will of God is by my actions and thoughts. I am not conformed to the world, but transformed. I am a new man in Christ Jesus who walks in *“newness of life”* (Romans 6:4). My behavior changes as a Christian. I am no longer conformed to the world. I do not think or act like the world. This is accomplished through a “renewing” of my mind.

My mind is made new again. A re-set. A change in thought and motives occur when we believe God and choose to obey Him. This is how we prove what God says is good, acceptable, and perfect. It is through my changed obedient behavior.

*“Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life”* (Philippians 2:14–16). Being conformed to the world would be to grumble and dispute. Being careful of our behavior with one another, we prove our innocence, prove we are a child of God. The proof of our faith is seen in our *“holding fast the word of life.”* All that God has revealed is what we hold fast. It is about our obedience to all that God has revealed. This is what it means to be a child of God.

Mankind has frequently and continually persecuted those who are the children of God. *“All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”* (2 Timothy 3:12). Jesus said, *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you”* (Matthew 5:11–12). The trials and tests by fire (1 Peter 1) will happen to all of us. That is when we must prove our faith. Jesus says the reward for faith is great! Focusing on the reward of God’s welcoming us into heaven, spending eternity in His presence - this helps our desire to endure, to remain faithful and obedient.

Beyond the endurance of trials, we see - *“Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?”* (2 Peter 3:13). Part of God’s law is that we *“do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith”* (Galatians 6:10) and, *“in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds”* (Titus 2:7). *“Show yourself”* is the same concept as *“prove yourself.”* Though men may persecute, they cannot harm our soul.

In your life, what are you proving about yourself?

By Charles Willis

## ***Know Your Bible***

### **Who Said It?**

1. In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.
2. What is truth?
3. How can a man be born when he is old?
4. Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.
5. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.

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.



## ***Drawing Near***

by Charles Willis

The concept of “drawing near” is about closeness and is understood to convey relationship, such as exists between parents and children or husbands and wives. In Scripture, this phrase is used about our coming into fellowship with God, becoming the child of God, becoming one who enjoys the love of God because of our obedience to Him.

It is revealed to us that *“(the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”* (Hebrews 7:19). The Law refers to the Law of God through Moses to the nation of Israel. That Law made nothing perfect (meaning complete). But things have now changed. Christ has died and resurrected, establishing the New Covenant. He has brought in *“a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”* It is a *“better covenant”* (Heb. 7:22), *“enacted on better promises”* (Heb. 8:6), through *“better sacrifices”* (Heb. 9:23), paid for with the blood of Christ (Heb. 12:24).

Jesus *“is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them”* (Hebrews 7:25). There is only one way to draw near to God - through Jesus. *“In love He”* (the Father) *“predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself”* (Ephesians 1:5). *“In Him”* (Christ) *“we have redemption through His”* (Christ’s) *“blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His”* (the Father’s) *“grace which He”* (the Father) *“lavished on us”* (Ephesians 1:7–8).

Therefore the Hebrews writes says, *“let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water”* (Hebrews 10:22). We need faith to draw near. Faith in the promises of God, faith to obey what God has said. Our hearts are “sprinkled clean from an evil conscience” through baptism. That is also the meaning when our bodies are “washed with pure water.” *“Baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience”* (1 Peter 3:21). So Hebrews 10 is saying we draw near to God through faith that is obedient in baptism. This completely agrees with Romans 6:3 and Galatians 3:27 which both say we are *“baptized into Christ.”* We draw near to God through Christ.

*“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded”* (James 4:7–8). We must all submit to God to draw near to Him. But we sin, and our sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). James is writing to Christians who need forgiveness. *“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God”* (James 4:4). If that is the state we are in, then we again need to draw near to God, for we have left Him. This is accomplished by submitting to God, cleansing our hands, and purifying our hearts. As Simon was told, *“repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.”* (Acts 8:22). Only then can we draw near to God.