

**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. Letter to the Laodiceans (Col. 4:16)
2. Joab (2 Sam. 11:4, 15)
3. Zerubbabel (Ezra 4:6-16)
4. The Assyrian King Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:14)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Casey Thomas
Announcements: Tyler Blazek
Encouragement Talk: Ronnie Ramsey
Opening Prayer: John Franks
Scripture Reading: Eddie Bowen
Titus 1:10-16
Song Leader:
Table Talk: Kevin Buckner
Contribution: John Van Baale
Helper: Kyle Crain
Fruit of Vine: Ronnie Lightfoot
Helper: Arturo Orozco
Helper: Sandon Spyker
Closing Prayer: Joel Jordan

Sunday Afternoons

June 16 Parent Planned Youth Devotional
June 23 3PM Evidences from Archaeology
(90 minute presentation)
June 30 Nothing
July 7 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Kevin Buckner
Speaker: Casey Thomas



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 21
Number 24
June 16, 2024

Sectarianism

In the time when Jesus walked the earth, the Jews had many sects. The Pharisees (Acts 15:5) and the Sadducees (Acts 5:17) were two of the most prominent. These two groups held widely different views about religion. For example, the Pharisees believed in an afterlife, the Sadducees did not. Sectarianism was such a strong concept in the minds of the Jews that the followers of Christ were called a sect by their enemies (Acts 24:5, 14; 28:22). Jesus opposed the sects of the Jews because they left the Word of God and followed their own traditions resulting in vain worship and invalidating the Word of God (Mark 7:7-13).

After the church was established, the mind-set of sects arose in Corinth, which was primarily composed of gentiles. *“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ” (1 Cor. 1:10-12).* Paul’s teaching was that there be no divisions among you. They were all part of the same congregation, but they quarreled about their differences as a result of being in a sect. He goes on to teach the Corinthians that their sectarianism indicated they were still fleshly since there was *“jealousy and strife”* among them (1 Cor. 3:3). This is also the result of sects: jealousy, strife, and quarrels.

Sects continue today in religion in the form of denominationalism. All say they follow Christ, yet there are many differences in belief which contradict each other. The result is jealousy, strife and quarrels. It is easy to see not everyone is following Christ who claims to be of Christ. God is opposed to sects. Strife, jealousy, disputes, dissensions, and factions are all listed as deeds of the flesh and those who practice them will not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:20-21). God wants unity. Jesus prayed that we might all be one as He and the Father are one (John 17:20-23). Jesus did not die to establish many sects, but “one body” (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23) which is His Church (Matt. 16:18). The main reason denominationalism exists is because of the false teaching of man (2 Pet. 2:1) and the desire of men to have their ears tickled (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

We are quick to make applications and understand these truths when looking outward. We

struggle more when we must look inward. It troubles me that among faithful congregations of the Lord's Church, sects continue. In our country we still have many congregations that are formed and based on race (black congregations, Hispanic congregations, white congregations). While there are God-allowed differences in some of the traditions within these groups, all seem to follow the truth of God. The crossing of the racial boundaries must occur if we are to all be one as Jesus prayed. We as individuals must rise above our society because we are of Christ. All men are sinners, and all who obey God are His children. Race and nationality play no part in God's church and cannot within His children.

We also struggle to make application in regards to economic status. Most Americans are comfortable financially, but there are many who are poor and some who are very wealthy. We see that same trend among some congregations. Those who are poor are not welcomed or received well in congregations that are composed of wealthier people, and to some degree the same occurs in congregations composed of those who are not as well off when a wealthy person comes into their midst. Such attitudes of sects and the opposite (which is favoritism) are equally opposed by God (James 2:1-6) because we dishonor other Christians in such attitudes. We make "*distinctions*" between ourselves (James 2:4).

The only difference seen in Scripture between Christians are levels of maturity. Some are called "*unruly, fainthearted, and weak*" (1 Thess. 5:14). Others are called "*spiritual*" or "*strong*" (Rom. 15:1). Clearly there are various degrees between these two as well. Despite these differences, we cannot allow sects to arise between those who know more and those who know less. "*Accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions*" (Rom. 14:1). Even if someone with a weaker understanding is stricter in application than God demands, we do not judge them for this. We are to be one in Christ. Some congregations have elders and deacons which view themselves as an elite whose attitudes and behaviors demonstrate a sectarian attitude. Elders are not to lord over the flock, but prove to be an example (1 Peter 5:3). That example must include a removal of all bias and sectarianism, accepting and helping all those who have obeyed the gospel of our Lord and Savior.

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-28).

By Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Letters

1. What lost letter of Paul is mentioned in Colossians?
2. Who received a letter from David saying to put Uriah in the heat of the battle?
3. Who had enemies that wrote smear letters about him to the Persian king?
4. What mighty king wrote a letter to Hezekiah urging his surrender?

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.



Christian Health

by Charles Willis

There is much being said today about physical diets and the need to eat healthy. Sadly many place more importance on physical health than spiritual health. Scripture teaches us how to have and maintain good spiritual health - if we will listen, learn, and apply it.

"In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following" (1 Timothy 4:6). Literally the "good" doctrine. The teaching that is "good" for our spiritual health. Timothy the evangelist is being told he is "*constantly nourished on the words of faith and of the sound doctrine.*" This is what the evangelist it to teach ("*point out...to the brethren*"). But I must have ears to hear and a heart to receive the word of God. I additionally must present myself for being exposed to the Word of God: through Bible reading and study, through hearing the preaching of the sound doctrine. And like any good diet, I need to stay away from the junk that is unhealthy. Most of what the world produces as "entertainment" is not spiritually "sound." Giving attention to what the world produces will only draw us away from God. It will train our mind to think in ungodly ways. Spiritual health is much important than an entertainment or anything that makes us like the world. "*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).

"If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing" (1 Timothy 6:3-4). "Sound" means 'to be well, to be in good health.' So "sound words" refers to healthy words. Words that bring spiritual health. This is seen again in 2 Timothy 1:13 which says, "*Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*" I must retain it - in my thinking, in my belief, in my heart. This is how the older men are to be "*sound in faith*" (Titus 2:2). So much so we are to be "*sound in speech which is beyond reproach*" (Titus 2:8)

Most people know what a healthy diet is, but refuse to eat a good diet because it is not what they want. The same is true of a spiritual diet. "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires*" (2 Timothy 4:3). Men will not endure "healthy" doctrine.

If we want to be spiritually healthy we need to feed on sound words and sound doctrine so that we can be sound in faith.