

**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. Frogs, lice, flies, locusts (Ex. 8, 10)
2. Into a herd of swine (Mark 5:13)
3. A Fish (Matthew 17:27)
4. A worm (Jonah 4:7)
5. Quail (Exodus 16:13)

**This Week's Assignments & Events**

**Sunday Worship**

Greeter: Billy Lovell  
 Announcements: Tyler Blazek  
 Encouragement Talk: Eddie Bowen  
 Opening Prayer: Kevin Buckner  
 Scripture Reading: Corwin Richardson  
 Philippians 1:1-9  
 Song Leader: Arturo Orozco  
 Table Talk: John Franks  
 Contribution: Casey Thomas  
 Helper: Kyle Crain  
 Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale  
 Helper: Billy Lovell  
 Helper: Sandon Spyker  
 Closing Prayer: Joel Jordan

**Sunday Afternoons**

July 21 Nothing  
 July 28 Classroom Quarter Change  
 Aug 4 3PM Devotionals  
 Aug 11 3PM Prayer Meeting

**Wednesday Evening**

Song Leader: John Franks  
 Speaker: Eddie Bowen



# 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 Powerless Staff

*“Gehazi laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing”  
 (2 Kings 4:31).*

Elisha the prophet had sent Gehazi to the boy with his staff, and it was a good staff for all practical purposes, but it could not bring the dead to life. There are many things in our lives that help us in serving God, but are utterly powerless to save our soul from sin and death.

**The Staff of Religious Upbringing.** There is advantage in being brought up knowing the Bible, and having some standard for morality. There is some advantage in having a mind that has been trained to serve God in some capacity. But we cannot place our trust in upbringing! We must seek out the truth and serve God as He has commanded. To do otherwise is to lean on a rotten stick!

**The Staff of Regular Praying.** It is good to have a godly mind-set that seeks to communicate with God, however we can not put our trust in the fact that we pray. Prayer will not save us from our sin! Some will say, “I’ve said my prayers from my youth up”. as if that gives them special recognition in God’s sight. Only if we are obedient will God see us as His children and hear our prayers (1 John 5:14; James 1:5-7). Praying frequently will not save us from our sin.

**The Staff of Good Works.** Good works are commanded of the follower of Christ (Matt. 5:16), but if all we are doing are the good works, we will inevitably end up bragging on ourselves. We will not feel any debt is owed to God. Our hope is not set on salvation in Christ, but in trying to earn our way to heaven. Christ said this is impossible (Matt. 7:21). These are limping on the crutch of what they have done rather than leaning on the arm of God!

**The Staff of Godly Parentage.** Some place all their hope in the faith of their parents, even some in the Church. There is no investigating for themselves, but a

trusting confidence that what their ancestors believed is truth. We cannot be saved upon that basis! Being well connected in a religious family does not ensure our salvation! Consider that Judas was from a godly family. The rich man who “lifted up his eyes in hell” was a son of Abraham. Lot’s wife was married to a godly man, yet she perished. If this staff is where our hopes are founded, we will be disappointed.

**The Staff of Church Membership.** Those who use this staff tend to lean heavily upon it. They make a point of hearing God’s word once a week, and try to be present to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Their concept of religion is a matter of attendance. This concept of serving God will not save us from our sin because it is not trusting in God. It is serving Him peripherally in an artificial way and not from the heart!

**The Staff of Knowledge.** This is the most ornamental staff of all. It is well polished and maintained. Those who lean on this staff seem very wise. They have heard everything the Bible has to say. They have heard all arguments against what the Bible says, and can refute those arguments. They know facts, figures, and details that most have not heard before. They have all this knowledge, but have not partaken of the new life that is found in Christ. They have searched the Scriptures daily, but have failed to search their own heart. The staff of knowledge will not save a man from his sins. Knowledge can lead a man to salvation, but the “knowing” without the “obedience” is useless!

**Our hope and trust must be in Jesus!** He alone can save us from our sins. He is the *“author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him”* (Heb. 5:9).  
By Charles Willis

### *Attitudes That Sweeten Marriage*

- Express Appreciation to your Spouse
- Give Honor and Respect to your Spouse (Ephesians 5:33 and 1 Peter 3:7)
- Be Forgiving (Luke 6:36–38; Matthew 6:14–15; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32)
- Be Helpful and Constructive

## **Know Your Bible**

### **Animals**

1. What four creatures did God send as plagues upon the Egyptians?
2. Where did Jesus send the legion of unclean spirits he had cast out of a man?
3. What did Peter find with a coin in it’s mouth?
4. What did God send to destroy the vine that shaded the sulking prophet Jonah?
5. What bird served as food for the Israelites in the wilderness?

*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.



## **Who’s Your Enemy?**

by Charles Willis

The word “enemy” brings up strong images of unpleasantness in our mind. Conflict and struggle are seen in our mind’s eye. It may not be a battlefield, but the battle is real. Ugly and harsh feelings are awakened. The “enemy” is one who is to be hated! We give no room to the enemy to infiltrate our feelings. We are constantly on guard against the schemes of the enemy that we might not be captured unawares. These are Bible concepts in regard to the enemy of the Christian, but we must be certain to know who are enemy is!

Is the world our enemy? True, we are to *“love not the world, not the things in the world”* (1 John 2:15), but are we to be enemies of the people in the world? Should our attitude be one of hatred of the man who is not serving God? No. We can hate the sin, but we must love the sinner. At times the individual may make life so awful for us he becomes like an enemy, at those times Christ says to *“love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you”* (Matthew 5:44). All men are our neighbors. If we harbor the attitude of hating the sinner, we will not be pleasing God!

Our enemy must be Satan! He is the one we despise and struggle against. He is the one who tempts us. We must never forget that our own lusts are the force upon which Satan operates. We must refuse Him any consideration since He is trying to devour us! If we do not view Satan as the enemy, I fear his claws are already embedded in our soul! We must resist Him and fight for our own soul, which he would take from us! He is a despicable and terrible creature that lies and cheats to achieve his ends. Let us beware lest we give in and begin viewing him in terms less strong than “enemy”!

Sadly, some do not recognize who their enemy is. Some believe they are righteous when in fact they are not. They serve the world rather than God. *“Who soever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”* (James 4:34). We have the ability to choose our enemy. Who is your enemy?

### **1. IF When Baptized,**

- Y** PUT ON CHRIST (Galatians 3:27)  
**O** WASH AWAY SINS (Acts 22:16)  
**U** HAVE REMISSION OF SINS (Acts 2:38)  
**U** ARE MADE FREE FROM SIN (Rom. 6:17–18)  
**U** BENEFIT BY JESUS’ DEATH (Rom. 6:3–4)  
**U** ENTER THE BODY OF CHRIST (1 Cor. 12:13)

### **2. THEN**

**What is Your Condition WITHOUT Baptism?**

