

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. Job (42:12)
2. Moses (Exodus 3:1)
3. Samuel (1 Samuel 16:11)
4. Abel (Genesis 4:2)
5. Jesus (John 10:11)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Eddie Bowen
Announcements: Arturo Orozco
Encouragement Talk: John Franks
Opening Prayer: Casey Thomas
Scripture Reading: Truett Blazek
Luke 1:8-17
Song Leader: Gary Tuttle
Table Talk: Kevin Buckner
Contribution: Sandon Spyker
Helper: Kyle Crain
Fruit of Vine: Tyler Blazek
Helper: Jonathan Lovell
Helper: Lester Mabry
Closing Prayer: Joel Jordan

Sunday Afternoons

Aug 18 Nothing
Aug 25 Group Visitation (meet & go)
Sept 1 Nothing
Sept 8 Gospel Meeting

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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Bent On Turning

So My people are bent on turning from Me. Though they call them to the One on high, None at all exalts Him. (Hosea 11:7)

Hosea was God's prophet to the northern nation of Israel. Hosea spoke during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel (Hosea 1:1). The message of God at this time was potently strong, and generally ignored. We see many parallels today of the same attitudes which existed in Israel.

God's prophets called the people to the One on high (11:7). God continued to call for the people to repent and turn back to Him. But none at all exalts Him (11:7). In our modern thinking: they heard the truth but did not follow the truth; they say they love God, but they do not keep His commandments (see John 14:15). The nation of Israel did not exalt God. They did not lift Him up in their thoughts higher than all others, they did not treat Him as if He was exalted, and they certainly did not obey the One on high. No their attitude and behavior was bent on turning from God. Their mind was made up, there was no stopping them, they desired to turn away.

So many in the world today call themselves Christians (and think of themselves as a child of God), who have this same attitude of bent on turning. They are not concerned to hear or know what God has said, they just do whatever they want. And like Israel, they still think of themselves as the child of God whom God loves. There is no faithfulness or kindness Or knowledge of God in the land (Hosea 4:1). My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). There was no serious attitude about listening to God. This was a result of their not exalting God. When we fail to see God's greatness and power, we are not concerned about listening to Him. This leads us to the decision to turn from Him.

God's attitude toward Israel is very well stated in Hosea. They will not return to the land of Egypt; But Assyria—he will be their king Because they refused to return to Me. (Hosea 11:5). God was bringing a judgment upon Israel for their sin. They would be carried off into Assyrian captivity and would not return to their God-given land ever again. The northern nation of

Israel ceased to exist when they were taken by the Assyrians. They rejected God as their “King” and refused to exalt Him, so God allowed the Assyrians to be their King. They were bent on turning from God. He sent prophets to warn them of their need to repent, and His desire for them to repent. But God did not forcibly stop them from turning. They chose to suffer the wrath of God rather than turn back to Him. If they knew their history as a nation they should have recognized the foolishness of this position - but they suffered from a lack of knowledge.

“Ephraim surrounds Me with lies And the house of Israel with deceit; Judah is also unruly against God, Even against the Holy One who is faithful” (Hosea 11:12). Both the northern and southern nations turned to worship idols. Judah is condemned strongly for this in the book of Jeremiah. The truth of God was not being said, only lies and deceit. We also can be surrounded by the lies and deceit and think we are right with God. The ONLY way to be certain is to have knowledge of what God says.

Humans have a bad habit of listening to other humans rather than listening to God. It is easily seen throughout Scripture. The one’s who DO listen to God are spoken of as people of great faith. They hear, believe, and obey God. Nothing deters them from obedience, nothing bends them toward turning, because God Himself is exalted above all others and the truth of God is exalted in their heart. As we often sing in one of our hymns, we express the sentiment of David in Psalm 18:46 *“The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation.”*

Let us learn from the poor attitude of Israel to not be “bent on turning” but rather to exalt God in our heart and actions. To truly dedicate ourselves to knowing His word so that we are not destroyed due to ignorance. Let us be humbled before God in submission to the One on High, the Holy One who is faithful. We then have confidence in our salvation, have peace in our heart, and rejoice in the love of God.

Perhaps in your life a change is needed. Perhaps you see yourself more like Israel in their lack of knowledge and being “bent on turning.” Make a decision today to change. Start learning God’s word, stop sinning, repent where needed, serve God in righteousness. Work to be “bent on obeying” in all things and please the One on High.

By Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Shepherds

1. What wealthy man had 14,000 sheep?
2. Who became a shepherd in Midian for his father-in-law?
3. Who paid Jesse a visit when his son David was out tending the sheep?
4. Who was the first shepherd in the Bible?
5. Who is the good shepherd?

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.



Do You Give Up?

by Charles Willis

Too often I fear we don’t. We look like we do, we say that we do, but deep in our heart we’ve not given up the sins that we enjoy. We know that unless we repent, we will all likewise perish (Luke 13:3), but have we honestly given up sin?

To every outward appearance we might be living a life of godliness. The community may think highly of us. Those in the church may believe we are very “religious.” We say the right things and do the right things. There’s just that one temptation to which we keep giving in. No one knows about it because it’s a secret sin (Ps. 90:8; 19:12). We can successfully hide sin from the world. We can hide it from the church, and even from our family; but to do that is to miss the point. *“God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9). Folling the world does no good, God wants each of us to repent. He *“knows the secrets of the heart”* (Ps. 44:21) and *“will bring every act into judgment, everything that is hidden”* (Eccl. 12:13). The only person we’re really fooling is ourselves.

When sin is made known, we understand the need to be penitent. We feel sorry about what we did. We sorrow for the pain we caused others. We have the embarrassment, the looks, the scandals due to our sin. This is the sorrow of the world which *“produces death”* (2 Cor. 7:10–11). The child of God will have *“godly sorrow”* which *“produces a repentance”* (2 Cor. 7:10) and this leads to the salvation of our souls. True repentance means we will no longer do those sinful things either in public or in private, because those are the things we give up to follow after Christ! *“Our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin”* (Romans 6:6).

*Save
the Date*

September 8–11
Gospel Meeting
With James Brown