

**New Caney
Church of Christ**

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(mail) P.O. Box 903
New Caney, TX 77357
281-399-5900
www.NewCaneyChurchofChrist.org

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. About 3,000 (Judges 16:27)
2. Peter (Acts 10:9-16)
3. Booths for the feast of Tabernacles (Nehemiah 8:14-16)
4. Rahab (Joshua 2:6)
5. David (2 Samuel 11:2-4)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Corwin Richardson
Announcements: Gary Tuttle
Encouragement Talk: Eddie Bowen
Opening Prayer: John Van Baale
Scripture Reading: John Franks
Luke 2:23-32
Song Leader: Billy Lovell
Table Talk: John Franks
Contribution: Arturo Orozco
Helper: Kyle Crain
Fruit of Vine: Kevin Buckner
Helper: Lester Mabry
Helper: Casey Thomas
Closing Prayer: Ronnie Ramsey

Sunday Afternoons

Oct 20 Nothing
Oct 27 3PM Classroom Quarter Change
Nov 3 3PM Devotionals
Nov 10 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Kevin Buckner
Speaker: Tyler Blazek



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
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October 20, 2024

What Caused The Great Division Of The 1950-s and 1960's?

By W.R. Jones

I write as one who was there. I begin with a historical look at the last 55 years. Preachers like N.B. Hardeman, Foy Wallace Jr. and H. Leo Boles, to name a few, were in their prime. They were more in the limelight, but in the background there were thousands of faithful preachers who quietly went about the kingdom business with little notice. The religious census of 1926 reported there were 433,000 members in churches of Christ. Others estimated the number had a half-million. There had been great prosperity in the 1920's, but this was followed by a horrible depression of the thirties. I live through that part of it and I can assure you first hand, it was bad. You may be surprised to learn that during these hard years churches of Christ enjoyed solid growth and development. Across the South, North, and West parts of our country the gospel spread at a rapid pace. Gospel preachers were aggressive and the strongholds of error were challenged and met on every hand. Great numbers were baptized. As a young preacher I baptized as many as 22 in one meeting. People were hungry for the gospel. Then came the automobile, radio, airplanes, and later, T.V. All these assisted the great spread of the message of truth across our fair land. It was a thrilling time to be a Christian.

It was a period of harmony and unity among churches. Following the great division of churches of Christ from the digressive Christian churches, there was a significant doctrinal harmony. Brethren rallied together for a common cause, the cause of truth. When for example, the premillennial issue invaded the churches we were confronted with a very divisive issue. I was quite young, but I can remember it was a very vocal and visible disagreement, and yet, when it was over very little damage had been done to the church. Do you know why? Brethren stood up and fought for the Truth. Foy Wallace Jr. led the fight and did a lot stamp out this false doctrine that dethrones Christ as King. This unity during that period can be seen by the fact than many widely publicized and well attended debates were conducted. Many debates were

held with Baptist opponents and others with representatives of the Christian churches over the matter of “instruments of music” in the worship. Many overtures of so-called unity were made by Christian churches, but these was almost a total rejection of united brethren toward this spirit of compromise. During those days there was a kind of distinctive, no-nonsense preaching. Not many preachers were trying to be entertainers and both preacher and members were generally known as “people of the Book”. Materialism was low, and spirituality was high.

Following World War II the church enjoyed a tremendous growth, especially in urban areas. Prosperity was increasing and times were changing. Many Christians began to climb the economic and educational ladder. Nice and even fancy buildings began to appear and for god or for bad the churches were moving “across the tracks. With increased prosperity, “liberalism” began to show its ugly head. Liberalism is an “attitude” and that makes it hard to get a handle on. Liberalism is a “loose attitude” toward the Divine Constitution. The only way we could deal with it was to deal with its “symptoms,” which will be named further in this article.

How could our brethren fall for liberalism? Several things are involved, but a very important one is the tendency to transfer “authority” from the Book to the church. The following became a popular way of thinking. (1) The church of Christ is the Lord’s church (No problem) (2) The church of Christ has the Truth (Sounds pretty good) (3) Therefore, what is taught and practices in the churches of Christ is right. (A dangerous way of reasoning.) Things were being accepted as Scriptural because the churches were doing them and not because that was what the New Testament taught. This is an attempt to transfer “authority” from the Book to the belief and practices of the churches and that is extremely dangerous regardless of how good it may sound.

Institutionalism was knocking at our door. Prior to Pearl Harbor, several colleges operated by brethren had quietly been accepting church contributions. In 1938 G.C. Brewer was reported to have said at an A.C.C. Lectureship that a church which did not

Know Your Bible

On The Roof

1. When Samson pulled the building down, how many people had been on the rooftop?
2. Who had a vision of unclean animals while in prayer on a housetop?
3. In the days of Ezra, what did some of the Jews build on their rooftops?
4. Who hid two spies on her rooftop among stalks of flax?
5. What king saw his bathing neighbor on a rooftop?

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.



Are You A Christian?

by W.R. Jones

How can a man know he is a Christian? Is there any way he can really know? These are questions which are often asked. God does not leave us standing on the quicksand of feelings and experiences. It is certainly possible for one to know whether he is a Christian or not. Here are some very plain statements from God’s word which will plant our feet on a sure and solid foundation: “*And hereby we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him; but whoso keepeth His word, in him hath the love of God been perfected. Hereby we know that we are in Him; he that saith he abideth in Him ought also to walk even as He walked*” (1 John 2:4-6). “*The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God*” (Rom. 8:16). This passage teaches that there must be agreement in testimony of the Holy Spirit and my spirit. The Holy Spirit testifies that to be a child of God one must do the will of Jesus Christ.

THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES that I must:

1. Believe in Christ (Mk 16:15-16)
2. Repent of my sins (Acts 2:38)
3. Confess Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)
4. Be baptized into Christ for the “remission of sins” (Acts 2:38)

MY SPIRIT MUST TESTIFY that I must:

1. Believe in Christ
2. Sincerely repented
3. Confess Christ
4. Be baptized into Christ for the “remission of sins.”

COMPLETE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SPIRITS IS A MUST!

Does the Holy Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God? If there is complete agreement between your spirit and God’s Spirit, then you may know that you are a child of God. If there is not complete agreement between the two then you are not a saved person. This means you are not a child of God, you are not a Christian. Why not do what the spirit says in the Word of God and become a Christian.

But, someone replies, “I feel like I am saved.” I don’t question the way you “feel” about it, but is that the right kind of proof? Feelings can be deceptive. Your “feelings” are subjective and they should not be the basis of your proof. You need the proof that comes from God’s Word which is objective. Until your spirit can sincerely say that you have fully complied with the Word of the spirit you have no assurance that you are a child of God. Be honest. Are you willing to take the above test?

have the college in its budget had the wrong preacher. A decade later, N.B. Hardeman (President of Freed-Hardeman College) and others, revived the controversy in a public attempt to attract financial support from church treasuries. Even before the G.I.'s return home in 1945, churches were awakening to a great need to spread the gospel here and elsewhere. Many soldiers had taught the Word across the seas and they were urging us to send preachers into these countries. Zeal is wonderful, but it began to get out of control and many brethren were embracing most anything that would spread the Word. The END began to OVERSHADOW the MEANS in the minds of many Christians. Spurred on by this unbridled zeal to bring the world to Christ, the churches were flooded with appeals to support cooperative works in Germany, Italy and Japan. In the beginning these efforts were primarily among church in Texas and Tennessee. Institutions (Colleges, Orphan Homes, Homes for the Aged, etc) soon grew to more than 30. We should remember, these things had not always existed. The first Orphan Homes: Tennessee Orphan Home in 1909; Potter's Orphanage 1914; Boles Home 1927 and Tipton Home in 1928. Added to all of these projects was a national radio (later T.V.) program called the Herald of Truth. All these innovations were calling for the "collective action" of churches. This quickly brought about the Sponsoring Church arrangement which called for many churches to send contributions to some Sponsoring church and her elders that they might oversee some mission on behalf of contributing churches. One would think these brethren didn't know 1 Peter 5:1-2 was in the Divine Text.

A conflict of minds. After exercising considerable patience, some good and respected brethren began to seriously question these practices. More and more good brethren were being pushed against the wall by these zealous out of control promoters. A "quarantine" program was started by the *Gospel Advocate* (a magazine, CLW) and imposed by many churches. This produced a tremendous tension between the boosters of the new projects and those who opposed them. At first, I was very enthused about these innovations. Fortunately I had been well taught on "How to establish authority" from God's Word. I had an honest heart and a deep respect for the Scripture. At the end of a great "Herald of Truth" rally, a preacher friend asked me how I would justify that arrangement from the New Testament. (The Herald of Truth was a sponsoring church national radio broadcast, CLW)

When my preacher friend asked me where I would go in the New Testament to find authority for the "sponsoring church" organization it took to produce the "herald of Truth", I responded with these brilliant words: "What kind of a nut are you, don't you want to spread the gospel?" My next dumb statement was, "You know

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it is scriptural or these brethren wouldn't be advocating it." Fortunately, I decided to research the Word and in so doing I saw the truth and took a stand. This cased me to be "quarantined." I was dismissed from my work, my support terminated and I had twelve meetings canceled within two weeks, all because I spoke against sinful innovations.

Confusion About The Real Issues. One sad aspect of the conflict was that many brethren were confused about the "issues" because of emotionalism. (1) Opposition to church contributing to Human Institutions was pictured as, "they hate little orphans." (2) Opposition to Sponsoring Churches and Sponsoring Elderships was portrayed as, "they don't believe in mission work." (3) Teaching that the responsibility of the church out of its treasury in benevolence is limited to "saints only" was translated, "they don't believe in helping a neighbor." (4) Opposition to fellowship halls was made to mean, "they are against brethren have a good time with one another." None of the "**false charges**" were ever true, but many fell for them and were blinded to the truth.

The Real Issues were: (1) The right of church to contribute to Human Institutions. (2) The sponsoring Church arrangement. (3) Church benevolence to aliens. In 1960 I men Henry McCaghern at Baytown, Texas in a six night debate on these three issues. Between 650 and 800 people were in attendance each evening. Elmer Moore moderated for me and much good was accomplished. As time passed, another issue, "the Social Gospel", started making inroads and grew rapidly. Just take a look about you today and you will realize how far this practice has taken brethren who embraced the digression. I personally, never dreamed it could happen. **It Has!**

Who caused the division? It was not the brethren who stood with the Word of God and gave a "thus saith the Lord." It was caused by those who **pressed unauthorized practices upon us.** Practices we couldn't (1) share in, (2) share with, (3) not give a share to. Conviction on these "matters of faith" forced us into separation. Today, we are still trying to maintain God's plan. Our brethren who embraced "liberalism," to various degrees, have moved farther away from the Truth. It is sad, but true! Our plea toward them continues: "**Come back totally to the solid truth!**"

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