

New Caney Church of Christ

(physical) 19351 FM 1485
(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
281-841-5718
charleswillisNCCofC@gmail.com

Know Your Bible: Answers

- 1. Esau (Genesis 25:28)
2. Joseph (Genesis 37:3)
3. Esther (2:7)
4. Isaiah (7:3; 8:1-4)
5. Jotham (Judges 9:1-5)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Ronnie Lightfoot
Announcements: John Franks
Encouragement Talk: Eddie Bowen
Opening Prayer: Sandon Spyker
Scripture Reading: Casey Thomas
Luke 5:17-26
Song Leader: Josh Emerson
Table Talk: John Van Baale
Contribution: Arturo Orozco
Helper: Kyle Crain
Fruit of Vine: Billy Sherry
Helper: Aaron Heald
Helper: Lester Mabry
Closing Prayer: Tyler Blazek

Sunday Afternoons

Dec 15 Nothing
Dec. 22 Nothing
Dec. 29 Nothing
Jan. 5 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: John Franks
Speaker: John Van Baale



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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Gospel or Gimmickry

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 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, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to fables (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

These verses clearly indicate that there are times when gospel preaching is in season and out of season. History indicates the same. In the first century in most places it was in season; in the middle ages it was out of season. There was a thrilling season for the gospel in middle America in the early nineteenth century, while at the same time it was largely out of season in France and Europe.

In our own lifetime, we have seen the same situation change. This writer remembers days in Chattanooga when non-Christians attended meetings in large numbers for no other reason than to hear the gospel, and ten or twenty baptisms were not uncommon in such a meeting. Simple gospel preaching does not now seem to have such drawing power.

What are we to do when gospel preaching is out of season; when people are more interested in education, entertainment, recreation, and social activities than they are in preaching; when the wisdom of the world has more appeal than the wisdom of God?

COMMON ANSWERS:

You have to take people where they are, we are told. We have to give them what they want to attract attention. Then we can reach them with the gospel. On this basis, all kinds of gimmicks are used to entice the worldly. Many churches have turned into little more than community centers and social clubs. They are more involved with ball teams and scout troops than with Bible teaching. The highways are crowded with their buses taking various age groups to every kind of amusement area in the country from Disney World to Lake Wannepesauka. Their advertising reads for all the world like a circus flyer, offering prizes, free gifts, and fun. Often, no promise is made of anything spiritual at all.

Others realizing that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation limit their activities more to preaching. But even here, appeal is still to the worldly tastes of our generation. If possible, preachers are obtained who have made a big reputation in sports, in entertainment, or in government. Otherwise, great emphasis is given in advertising to the educational

attainments of the speaker or to his gifts as a “dynamic, powerful, eloquent” speaker.

GOD’S WAY.

The problems of disinterested people is not new. It existed in some places even in the first century. Paul said it existed in Corinth. *“For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness”* (1 Cor. 1:22,23).

Paul had the power to offer signs to the Jews and the knowledge to compete with the Greeks in worldly wisdom. The philosophy described above would have suggested advertisement of a lecture on “The Judaistic Philosophy in the Roman World.” Obtaining his audience with this, he could then slip in a little about Jesus and the cross. But this was not Paul’s approach, as he told us: *“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”* (1 Cor. 2:2). Human philosophy and human wisdom had no place in Paul’s plan for saving the lost in Corinth.

Preaching only the gospel, of course, Paul could have announced himself as “Dr. Paul, graduate of the University of Gamaliel, noted author, world traveler, inspired and dynamic lecturer.” Rather, he says, *“And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God...I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God”* (1 Cor. 2:1,3-5).

Worldly appeals simply cannot save lost men. And to attach them to the gospel is to cheapen the good news of Jesus Christ. By such appeals we may increase numbers and even “make waves,” but such individuals in the local church are liabilities rather than assets. As materials in God’s building they are classified as “wood, hay, and straw.” Paul warns against building such material into the church: *“According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it...Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work”* (1 Cor. 3: 10,12,13).

By Sewell Hall, via Gospel Power, Vol. VIII, No. 51, Dec. 30, 2001

Know Your Bible

Children

1. Which son was Isaac partial to?
2. Who was Jacob’s favorite son?
3. Who was adopted by Mordecai as his own daughter?
4. What prophet named his sons Maher-shalal-hash-baz, and Shear-jashub?
5. Which of Gideon’s sons (the youngest) was the only one to escape the plot of his scheming brother Abimelech?

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.










Don’t Look Down!

by Charles Willis

That’s good advice for the tight-rope walkers and mountain climbers, but it’s also good advice for the Christian. All too often we dwell on the things dealing with this life when we ought to cultivating a view upward toward heaven. By looking to the things that are above we will keep a better perspective on this life.

Heaven is where we desire to go (2 Corinthians 5:2), it is what we are looking for (2 Peter 3:12). When we take our eyes off the goal, we begin to appreciate the things of the life even though we know the heavenly things are better (Philippians 1:23; Hebrews 11:10). Our time becomes filled with chasing hobbies, or family. We find ourselves craving after entertainment that is ever more assaultive to our senses. We will begin to become more concerned with our health or our financial soundness rather than dwelling on seeing Christ (Hebrews 9:12) and the righteous that have gone before us (Hebrews 12:22–23). This world is filled with people who are dwelling on the things below; but, by keeping heaven ever before us as the place of rest (Revelation 14:13), we will do whatever it takes to overcome the temptations of this life (Revelation 2:7, 10–11). We will press toward the mark (Philippians 3:14), just as the foot racer keeps the finish line in full view. Indeed, “Don’t Look Down” is good advice for the Christian!

*And He gave some
as apostles, 
and some as prophets, 
and some as evangelists, 
and some as pastors 
and teachers, *

*for the equipping of the saints, for the work of
service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

until we all attain to the unity of the faith,
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to a mature man,  to the measure of the
stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:11-13 