

**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. Esau (Genesis 27:41)
2. Making the golden calf (Ex. 32:19-22)
3. Cain (Genesis 4:8)
4. Joseph (Genesis 37:4)
5. Eliab (1 Samuel 17:28-30)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Gary Tuttle
Announcements: Eddie Bowen
Encouragement Talk: Tyler Blazek
Opening Prayer: Sandon Spyker
Scripture Reading: Truett Blazek
Luke 6:12-19
Song Leader: Josh Emerson
Table Talk: John Franks
Contribution: John Van Baale
Helper: Kyle Crain
Fruit of Vine: Billy Scherry
Helper: Joel Jordan
Helper: Lester Mabry
Closing Prayer: Kevin Buckner

Sunday Afternoons

Jan 12 3PM Devotionals
Jan 19 Nothing
Jan 26 3PM Classroom Quarter Change
Feb 2 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Truett Blazek
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

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A Seared Conscience

“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron” (1 Timothy 4:2).

Proverbs 4:23 says to “watch over your heart with all diligence.” As children of God, we are wise to be watchful about what is allowed into our heart, and wise to consider what comes out of our heart. Yet, many are not diligent about these things.

In the passage above, “seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron” is translated from two Greek words: *suneidēsis*, meaning “conscience” (Strong’s G4893), and *kautēriazō* meaning “to brand (“cauterize”), that is, (by implication) to render unsensitive (figuratively)” (Strong’s G2743). If we are not diligent to watch over our heart, it can become unsensitive, hardened, and tough. God spoke of the non-Christians in this way, referring to the walk of the Gentiles. They are “*excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness*” (Eph. 4:18-19).

The Spirit of God tells us this seared heart can occur “*by means of the hypocrisy of liars.*” Some teach lies (such as forbidding marriage and abstaining from foods, 1 Tim. 4:3) and are not concerned about their own souls. These are men teaching religious doctrines that disagree with God, but their conscience is seared so as to not be touched by any guilt or concern. Because of their lies, some will fall away for paying attention to them. If we are going to watch over our heart, we MUST carefully consider what we pay attention to. We can fall away from the faith for lack of diligence. We can believe the lie if we fail to verify the statement from Scripture.

Just as the Gentiles and the false teacher can have a seared conscience, so can the believer. “*To those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and the conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed*” (Titus 1:15-16). The mind of the believer can become defiled so as to be lost. Our senses should be trained by practice to discern what God says is good and evil (Heb. 5:14), a clear reference to the function of our conscience. By lack of practice, and/

or continuance in sin, the conscience becomes defiled and thus hardened to sin. As the conscience develops callouses, it becomes more difficult to discern good and evil. For this reason the hardened heart struggles to see where they have sinned against God. It is from lack of knowledge in God's word (partaking only of the milk of the word), but also because they do not think sin is evil.

When we know God's truth and recognize our own sin, the conscience should hurt. The people on the day of Pentecost who heard the preaching about Jesus being the crucified Messiah were "*pierced to the heart*" (Acts 2:37). They were told of their need to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sin. The blood of Christ will "*cleanse your conscience*" (Heb. 9:15). Baptism is "*an appeal to God for a good conscience*" (1 Peter 3:21). We want the guilt associated with sin to go away. The guilty conscience is soothed through obedience to God in that we know we have been forgiven. If you've never obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ, having been baptized for the forgiveness of sins, watch over your heart with diligence. You should not yet have a clean conscience for you have not yet been forgiven.

For those who have obeyed the gospel and have enjoyed the clean conscience, we must understand that we must be diligent to maintain a good conscience. "*Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us*" (1 John 3:18-20). Only through continued obedience to God's will can our heart be assured that we are right with God. Even though we know we are sinners, we know we have been forgiven. We are thankful that God knows our heart and has promised to cleanse us from all unrighteousness when we confess (1 John 1:9).

While the conscience can be wrong and must be trained to know God's word, a proper functioning conscience is a wonderful asset for a Christian. However, if our heart has become seared, hardened, and callous to the things of God, our conscience will not aid us as God intends. The diligence to watch over our heart is a vital trait all believers must develop and practice. We must desire the soft, tender heart that quickly tells us we are wrong and wounds us continually until we repent and seek God's forgiveness. God in His wisdom created us with a conscience to aid us. It is our responsibility to watch over it.

Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Brother Against Brother

1. Who hated his brother for taking away his birthright?
2. What did Moses rebuke Aaron for?
3. Who was the first man to murder his brother?
4. What dreamy boy was hated for being his father's favorite?
5. What older brother of David chewed him out for coming to watch the battle with the Philistines?

Answers On Back

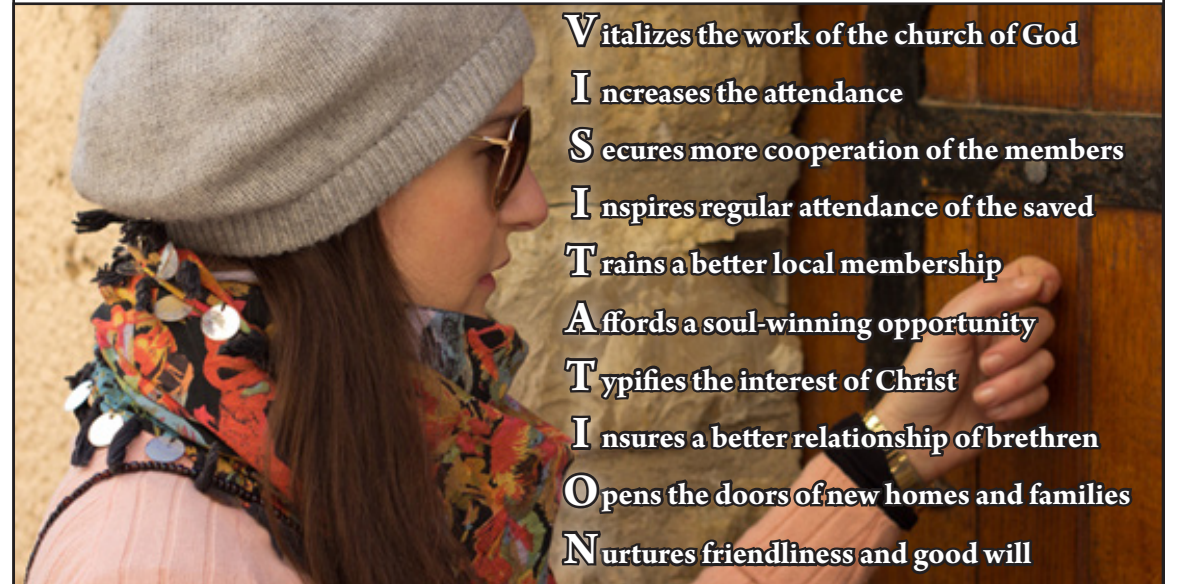
Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

Make A Sincere Effort



- V**italizes the work of the church of God
- I**ncreases the attendance
- S**ecures more cooperation of the members
- I**nspires regular attendance of the saved
- T**rains a better local membership
- A**ffords a soul-winning opportunity
- T**ypifies the interest of Christ
- I**nsures a better relationship of brethren
- O**pens the doors of new homes and families
- N**urtures friendliness and good will

Bring A Visitor

Arrange A Home Bible Study

Talk To Someone About The Gospel

Will You Accept The Challenge?