

Family Matters

Illness

- Bonnie Scherry has the flu.
- Gloria Watts' brother (Dewight Haas) remains in ICU after suffering a brain bleed 12 days ago. He is now getting good reports and recovery is expected, but he has a long road ahead. He is a member of the Woodlands congregation.
- Continue to pray for Barbara Wall after breaking her wrist in two places. With the ice storm last week her doctor canceled her appointment and is to get a cast tomorrow. They will have to re-break her wrist to set it.
- Please pray for Victor Studdard (struggling with high Blood Pressure also), and J.R. Rose Graham (Lupis).
- Homebound: Barbara Green, Stephen Cooper, Connie Pagan. Peggy Dees, Donald Hejl, and Doris Smith continue in hospice care facilities.

Today 3PM Classroom Quarter Change

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. Chief butler and chief baker (Genesis 41)
2. Jacob (Genesis 29-31)
3. Elisha (2 Kings 3:11)
4. The Hivites (John 9:23)
5. Joshua (Exodus 33:11)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Ronnie Lightfoot
 Announcements: Eddie Bowen
 Encouragement Talk: Ronnie Ramsey
 Opening Prayer: John Franks
 Scripture Reading: Corwin Richardson
 Luke 6:27-38
 Song Leader: Arturo Orozco
 Table Talk: Tyler Blazek
 Contribution: John Van Baale
 Helper: Truett Blazek
 Fruit of Vine: Kevin Buckner
 Helper: Joel Jordan
 Helper: Casey Thomas
 Closing Prayer: Josh Emerson

Sunday Afternoons

Jan 26 3PM Classroom Quarter Change
 Feb 2 Nothing
 Feb 9 3PM Weekend Study
 Feb 16 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Corwin Richardson
 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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Convincing The Skeptic

A skeptic is one who habitually questions matters generally accepted, one who doubts religious doctrine (Webster's New World Dictionary). We are sometimes quick to turn away a skeptic in search of what we think might be a better prospect for teaching the gospel. This is an unfortunate fault in most people's thinking. A skeptic takes nothing for granted. He wants to find the answer for himself and see things proved to his own satisfaction. Once convinced, he can become very faithful! There are two famous skeptics we should consider when studying with others about the gospel.

Skeptic Number One

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see” (John 1:45-46). Nathanael questioned a general understanding that many thought Jesus came from God, as testified by the mouth of John the baptist. Yet even with that testimony and the testimony of God the Father at His baptism saying “this is my beloved Son”, Nathanael could still say, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” He decided to harken to the advice to come see for himself and as a result he believed that Jesus was “the Son of God; You are the King of Israel” (John 1:49).

What convinced this skeptic was seeing Jesus. Jesus told him things He should not have been able to know except by divine intervention. As a result of this divine knowledge being affirmed in Jesus, Nathanael believed. We cannot physically take a skeptic to Jesus today for Christ dwells in heaven.

Skeptic Number Two

“But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe” (John 20:24-25). Doubting Thomas was

a skeptic. He heard the accepted general knowledge from the other apostles in whom he must have had some confidence. He continued to question the validity of their statements and refused to believe until he could satisfy his own mind.

You will remember his mind was satisfied, not by putting his hands on the nail holes or putting his hand in the side where Jesus was pierced, but simply when Christ appeared to him and said *“do not be unbelieving, but believing”* (John 20:27). Until this point he did not believe the testimony of others, but become convinced of the truth before his eyes saying *“my Lord and my God”* (John 20:28).

Modern Skeptics

People have not changed. Men still need convincing that Jesus is the Son of God. How does this happen? Either they will convince themselves through the study of God’s word, or faithful men will teach them. Philip brought the skeptic Nathanael who became a devout believer. The other apostles did not give up on Thomas when he voiced his unbelief. Do we perhaps cast aside a prospect who does not believe upon a first hearing of the gospel? We must be careful.

Following the same steps outlined in the Bible will bring about the same results, whether talking about applying the truth to our own lives or in talking to others. We must present the skeptic to Jesus - show the portraits of Jesus to him through the Bible. We are not the ones that will convince him to believe, the gospel is the “power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16), all we can do is present Jesus to him. He must see Jesus for himself. We can’t let him touch the nail scarred hands, but the story can be told!

Perhaps the best way to aid the skeptic in becoming convinced of Jesus is to review the two cases presented in John’s gospel. They were men like us. They were skeptical at a time when we could not be. Their skepticism represents our skepticism. They were totally convinced by what they saw and heard. I know of no better way than the Bible to convince the skeptic of their need to believe!

by Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Servants

1. What 2 servants of Pharaoh were in prison with Joseph?
2. Who was Laban’s servant for many years?
3. Who was Elijah’s personal servant?
4. What people, in Joshua’s time, were made to be Israel’s servants?
5. Who was Moses’ personal servant?

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.



The Lure Of Good Enough

by W.R. Jones

When I was quite a younger preacher, I traveled a considerable distance to keep a preaching appointment with a rural church. I arrived early, and one brother had already come for the purpose of sweeping out the building. Trying hard to make conversation and manifest an interest, I asked, “How are things going with the church here?” To this he replied, “Good-uh-nuff I reckon, we’re keeping house for the Lord.” I didn’t fully understand what he meant by that at the time, but later I did. What he meant was, we meet once a week, have a meeting each year, keep wood cut for the stove, and sweep out the building occasionally. This seemed to him, “good enough,” and he appeared to be perfectly satisfied.

Someone has wisely written, “There is no more insidious danger than the lure of good enough.” When we are controlled by the “good enough” spirit, we are likely to become self-satisfied and indifferent about the work Christ has asked us to do. Paul exhorted - *“Be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...”* (1 Cor. 15:58). One can row a boat upstream, but if he quits rowing, the boat will not stand still, it will immediately go downstream. This is exactly what happens when any congregation becomes satisfied with the “good enough.” There are some congregations that were promising church, but they are now as dead as the Salt Sea, simply because they fell for the “good enough.”

The best way I know to “stagnate” water is to stop it from moving, and the quickest way for a congregation to “stagnate spiritually” is to quit moving forward in the Lord’s church. I pray that we shall not become stagnated. It need not happen, but it can. It can happen anywhere if we are foolish enough to be seduced by the “lure of good enough.” Let us labor that we may grow both spiritually and numerically.

Victory belongs to the most persevering.
Napolean

It is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.
Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:22)