

**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. Sarah (Genesis 21:1-5)
2. Elizabeth and Zehcarias (Luke 1)
3. Elisha (2 Kings 4:13-17)
4. Jesus' (Luke 1:26-38)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Lester Mabry
Announcements: Ronnie Ramsey
Encouragement Talk: Josh Emerson
Opening Prayer: John Van Baale
Scripture Reading: Gary Tuttle
Luke 6:1-11
Song Leader: Kevin Buckner
Table Talk: Arturo Orozco
Contribution: Billy Sherry
Helper: Corwin Richardson
Fruit of Vine: Tyler Blazek
Helper: Truett Blazek
Helper: Billy Lovell
Closing Prayer: Scott McDearman

Sunday Afternoons

Jan 5 Nothing
Jan 12 3PM Devotionals
Jan 19 Nothing
Jan 26 3PM Classroom Quarter Change

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: John Franks
Speaker: Arturo Orozco



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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Completeness

When given a school assignment, we often check our children’s work to be sure they finish it. When filling out forms for employment we go back over our answers to be certain nothing was left out. When we paint a wall or wash the car, we look for spots we missed. Most people will not do a job half-way, but will try to finish the project. Why do men not make this simple application to religion?

Many in the world are content with a partial knowledge or a partial understanding of the truth. Even though it is within their grasp to read it for themselves and know how to please God, they choose to remain incomplete in their knowledge and understanding. It’s as if the wall has gaping spots where no paint was applied, but we just live with it. This is not a predicament that is pleasing to God.

We all know and understand there is a God, we can simply look around the creation and see His handiwork (Romans 1:20ff). Paul had a wish for the Ephesians: *“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”* (Ephesians 1:17-18). How do we receive that enlightenment today? How does God give us that “spirit of wisdom and revelation”? Men believe many different things in this regard. Some would say it is a miraculous gift, others would say we are born with it, and still others say it is something that all can attain. These various conflicting ideas cannot all be correct. So, how do we know which is correct about how we receive enlightenment, wisdom, and understanding? How can we become complete?

1 John 5:20 says, *“we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”* This passage indicates that the understanding is given to everyone. Everyone has the ability to understand, just like everyone can be “in Christ”, and receive “eternal life”. Back up in verse 13, John says, *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”* He

indicates that all can have eternal life, all can believe on Jesus as the Son of God, and that all can understand - how? BY THE THINGS HE HAD WRITTEN! The purpose of John's gospel account was to produce belief in the reader (John 20:31) by giving them knowledge about Jesus' miraculous abilities. *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God has given us the Bible so that we might know and understand His will for us. By reading the Bible we can become perfect. Paul said, *"God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ"* (Colossians 1:27-28). So God wants all men to have this knowledge, to the extent that the apostles taught it to "every man" and the written word has been given to us so that we could all be presented "perfect" - COMPLETE!

It behooves all men to compare all aspects of the lives with the Bible to be certain that our knowledge and understanding is complete. Salvation is simply too important an issue to leave to chance! It is too important to risk a sketchy knowledge or partial understanding. Eternal life or eternal death are being determined by how we live our lives. Our being complete in Christ is of an utmost urgency!

"More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:8-11). Only through obedience to the revealed written word of God will men be made complete in His Son. *"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority"*.

By Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Miraculous Pregnancies

1. Who gave birth to a son when she was 90 years old?
2. What elderly couple produced a child, in accordance with the words of the angel?
3. Who prophesied to the Shunammite woman that, though her husband was old, she would bear a child?
4. Whose astounded mother called herself the "handmaiden of the Lord" when told she would bear a child?

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.



Proper Clothing

by Charles Willis

A few years ago I received a jury summons in the mail from Montgomery County. As I read through the summons there was one statement that caught my eye which I must comment on. Here is the quote:

JURORS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Proper clothing required: All persons entering the courtroom/jury assembly room should be dressed in clothing reasonably befitting the dignity and solemnity of the court proceedings (i.e. shorts, tank tops or t-shirts are not allowed).

The world understands there is a proper and improper way to dress, dependent upon the proceedings. A courtroom and even a jury assembly room presents a solemn and serious occasion. We accord a judge much honor and respect in the courtroom, and our dress should be appropriate for the judge, as well as those who are involved in the trial. It is therefore appropriate for a juror (as a participant) to dress properly. I for one was glad to see such a statement on the summons.

In recent years our nation's attitudes and dress codes have become very relaxed. Shorts are not yet allowed in most business offices, but we're not far from that. Gone are the days when men in the corporate office were expected to wear a suit and tie to work every day. The relaxing of the dress code in the world has affected our thinking in the church as well. People purchase a wardrobe for work and that's the clothes they have to wear for religious assemblies as well. So we see people coming to church with all manner of casual attire. Would we wear it to the courtroom? Would we be in trouble with the law for violating the summons statement written above?

Obviously my point is that the worship assembly is a much more solemn and dignified 'proceeding' than what takes place in a courtroom. The honor accorded a human judge cannot compare to the honor we have for Jehovah as our judge. If we can understand the appropriateness of dressing 'properly' for a court proceeding we should also be able to see the need to dress 'properly' for a worship assembly.

We still carry a phrase in our culture of putting on your "Sunday best." I believe (in our relaxed attire culture) we need to be concerned that our "Sunday best" may not be proper or reasonably befitting the assembly. I'm not trying to tell people what to wear, but to cause us to stop and consider if we are pleasing God by the way we dress. Certainly immodest dress is not appropriate at anytime for a Christian, but especially at the worship assembly. How many people would complain if God had printed in scripture a dress code for assembly that was similar to the summons statement above? It is not there, but our attitude toward God should want to accord Him honor by our attire. This is right and proper.