

**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. Haman (Esther 7:10-8:2)
2. Amorites (Joshua 10:8-14)
3. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Numberse 16:23-33)
4. Sodom & Gamorrah (Gen. 19)
5. Death of the firstborn (Ex. 12:29)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Corwin Richardson
Announcements: John Van Baale
Encouragement Talk: Josh Emerson
Opening Prayer: Kyle Crain
Scripture Reading: John Franks
Luke 7:40-50
Song Leader: Arturo Orozco
Table Talk: Tyler Blazek
Contribution: Eddie Bowen
Helper: Truett Blazek
Fruit of Vine: Kevin Buckner
Helper: Aaron Heald
Helper: Ronnie Lightfoot
Closing Prayer: Eddie Bowen

Sunday Afternoons

Mar 23 Nothing
Mar 30 Nothing
Apr 6 Encouragement (cards/calls)
Apr 13 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Kevin Buckner
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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Taking Pleasure In Wickedness

“For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness” (2 Thess. 2:11-12).

If sin were not enjoyable, it would not be a temptation. There is something about the particular sin that appeals to us. The degree of appeal varies from person to person in accordance with our lusts. Scripture affirms this as true in Hebrews 11:25 in saying Moses refused the pleasures of sin while in Egypt. Every believer understands that in some ways there is an appeal embedded within temptation, but that is different than our choosing to take pleasure in wickedness.

“Took pleasure” (2 Thess. 2:11-12) is “had pleasure” in the King James. The Greek is from one word meaning “to think well of, that is, approve (an act)” (Strong’s, G2106). This is a person who knowingly, willfully sins and enjoys it. They think of evil as being good (“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil” - Is. 5:20).

We are quick, and right, to condemn such thinking in others, but we are slow to condemn ourselves of the same thing. Some who call themselves Christian think nothing of drunkenness and carousing (think going out to bars and nightclubs). They think of this as having a good time, an entertainment which they enjoy. The same could be said of drug abuse, mixed swimming, going to beaches (where people are not properly attired), sexual immorality, and more. Closer to home are those who take pleasure in wickedness seen in a movie (whether it be violence, language, nudity, or other wickedness). There is nothing wrong with enjoying a movie or a TV show, but WHAT are we taking pleasure in?

We who are Christians are striving to be like Christ, to be like God. Psalm 5:4 states, “You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You.” Our mind is to be set on “the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Col. 3:2). Our actions should not condone or approve of anything evil. “Although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them” (Rom. 1:32). Our hearty approval (taking pleasure in wickedness) can be demonstrated in what we pay to do or say, where we choose to go, and with whom we go. We are not to love the world nor the things in the world (1 John 2:15).

To take pleasure in wickedness is to “*not believe the truth*” (2 Thess. 2:12). We can call ourselves a Christian all our life, and believe it in our heart, but our actions can prove otherwise. What we take pleasure in indicates where our heart is. We must examine ourselves. We say we love the truth, but if we take pleasure in wickedness, we do not believe what God has said. A parallel statement to 2 Thessalonians 2:12 is found in 2 Peter 2:9-10, “*the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.*” God has revealed His attitude: “*to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation*” (Rom. 2:8).

We say we love God, but God says love “*does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth*” (1 Cor. 13:6). We say we are a Christian, but God says “*if we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth*” (1 John 1:6). To the widows Paul writes, “*but she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives*” (1 Tim. 5:6). Those we are to avoid include those who are “*lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*” (2 Tim. 3:4). In the midst of teaching about false teachers, Peter says “they count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime.” There is no belief in the truth from anyone who takes pleasure in wickedness.

To those who took pleasure in wickedness, God sent a “*deluding influence so that they will believe what is false*” (2 Thess. 2:11). God leaves those who do not believe the truth. God does not interpose by direct power to preserve them. He allows them to believe what they want. Through God’s providence, men may come into their lives to share the truth, but they are allowed to choose error. John 12:40 indicates Jesus “*has blinded their eyes and He hardened their heart, so that they would not see with their eyes and perceive with their heart, and be converted and I heal them.*” The truth (as demonstrated by His miracles) should have caused belief in the heart of the Jews, but they chose to believe a lie. God left them to their choice. God does not wish “*for any to perish but for all to come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9). He would not cause anyone to believe a lie, but He does give us freewill to choose what is false.

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 is a powerful passage which we typically want to apply to others. We are wise to consider it for ourselves. Have we believed a lie? Do we take pleasure in wickedness? Do we in fact not believe the truth? God’s judgment is coming, and we must see ourselves as God sees us. Examine yourself, carefully.

Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Strange Ways To Die

1. Who was hanged on a gallows he prepared for Mordecai?
2. What people were killed by great hailstones from heaven?
3. Who, along with his household, was swallowed up by the earth for rebelling against Moses?
4. What two cities were rained on by fire and brimstone?
5. What was the last plague sent upon the Egyptians?

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.



Heirs Of God

by Donald Willis

“*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...*” (Rom. 8:16–17). “*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God*” (1 Jn. 3:1). An heir is a partaker of the inheritance. God’s inheritance for His children is His favor and blessing, here, today; and eternal life hereafter. This honor is infinitely higher than that of being heir of the most princely earthly inheritance, or than to be adopted son of the most magnificent earthly monarch.

And, Christians are “joint-heirs” with Jesus Christ. Christ is the Son of God, and is heir of the full honors and glory of heaven and earth. Christians are united with Him, and therefore are partakers jointly of His glory and honor.

But, what are some of the blessings for the Christian?

We are HEIRS OF HIS GRACE (Eph. 2:8). Grace signifies favor. Just imagine some rich person saying, “If I can ever help you, just let me know.” And, yet, God so offers to His people.

Thus, we are assured of SECURITY (Jn. 10:27–29). Christians are kept people. There should be a security of the believer... however, if one desires to no longer follow the Lord, he can open the way out of that security (Heb. 10:35).

Christians have the AID OF GOD. The door to prayer is ever open, God is interested in our needs and thanksgivings. God is concerned about all of the affairs of the Christian. Even, in His aid, God has taught the Christian not to worry. God is greater than our concerns. All of the wonderful blessings of prosperity flow from God (Jas. 1:17).

Christians are HEIRS OF SALVATION (Heb. 1:14). God’s supreme objective was the eternal scheme of redemption through Jesus Christ. Prophets did not understand, but we can know the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf!

Christians are HEIRS OF GOD’S PROMISES. The promise made to Abraham, that through his seed God would bless the nations (Gal. 3:29). We are Abraham’s seed by faith!

Christians are HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM prepared from the foundation of the world (Jas. 2:5). Some own a kingdom due to a military power, but we are heirs by God’s grace. To be an heir of the kingdom necessitates the kingdom-life of it’s followers!

Christians are HEIRS OF ETERNAL LIFE (1 Jn. 5:11–12), through sonship. There is no treasure comparable to having one’s name written in the Lamb’s book of life (Heb. 12:23). Truly, we are HEIRS OF ALL THINGS through God’s wonderful goodness.

One might desire to be the heir of the Hughes estate, or the Ford’s, Rockefeller’s, or Kennedy’s. But, I am an HEIR OF GOD, the greatest blessing that one could ever possess.

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