

Family Matters

Illness

- Jo Ann Willis is now living in a long-term care facility in Livingston. If you would like to write to her, please leave letters in the “bulletin tray” on the table in the foyer.
- Ronnie Ramsey continues to struggle with back pain.
- Please continue to pray for Barbara Wall, Victor Studdard and J.R. Rose Graham.
- Homebound: Barbara Green, Stephen Cooper, Connie Pagan. Peggy Dees, Donald Hejl, and Doris Smith continue in hospice care facilities.

AREA MEETINGS

Mar. 30–Apr 2 Cy Fair with Daniel Lee

Mar. 30–Apr 4 Parview (Pasadena) with Brett Hogland

Mar. 30–Apr 4 Crosby with Joshua Gurtler (Unraveling Evolution)

New Caney Church of Christ

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Assembly Times

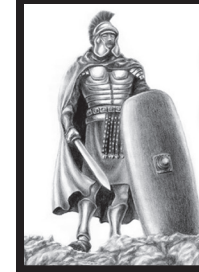
Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Retaining The Standard Of Sound Doctrine

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Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Samuel (1 Sam. 28:7–20)
2. Elijah (1 Kings 17:17–22)
3. Peter (Acts 9:36–41)
4. Lazarus (John 11)
5. Jairus' (Luke 8:41–42, 49–55)



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

Volume 22
Number 1 3
March 30, 2025

How To Listen To A Sermon

Jesus' instruction to His disciples must be learned by us: *“take care how you listen”* (Luke 8:18). As one who has listened to sermons for decades, I know I have been guilty of listening while distracted, listening while sleepy, listening vaguely and letting my mind wander. Perhaps you can relate. This is at times a result of poor preaching, but that is not what this article about. Often the problem is not the delivery of the lesson, but the reception of the hearer.

Many today attend an assembly seeking an entertainment. The lesson is really not the focus, but rather the delivery of it. This was exactly God's statement to the prophet Ezekiel, *“They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain. Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them”* (Ezekiel 33:31–32). The attitudes of men's hearts have not changed in our day, however we must be certain that we are not merely listening to be entertained by a good speaker, or to hear a good illustrative story, or see some nice pictures on a video display during the lesson.

Jesus quotes from Isaiah saying some would have problems listening to the truth. *“You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; For the heart of this people has become dull, With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Otherwise they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them”* (Matthew 13:14–15). A real danger to us is this poor attitude toward listening to a proclamation of God's truth: that my heart becomes dull and my ears scarcely hear. If my heart is in tune with God, and I truly *“hunger and thirst for righteousness”* (Matt. 5:6), my ears would be more attentive to God's truth.

This issue of a proper heart to receive the word is exactly what is indicated in James 1:21, *“Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility*

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Truett Blazek
Announcements: Arturo Orozco
Encouragement Talk: John Franks
Opening Prayer: Kevin Buckner
Scripture Reading: Eddie Bowen
Luke 8:1–15
Song Leader: Billy Lovell
Table Talk: Eddie Bowen
Contribution: Tyler Blazek
Helper: Theo Edge
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Helper: Casey Thomas
Closing Prayer: Josh Emerson

Sunday Afternoons

Mar 30 Nothing
Apr 6 Encouragement (cards/calls)
Apr 13 Nothing
Apr 20 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Corwin Richardson
Speaker: Josh Emerson

receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.” Humility helps us listen. Not that the preacher knows more than I know, but that God has seen fit to give me His word which needs to be implanted in me because it can save my soul when I obey it. I need to hear what God has said, I need to learn it because it effects my eternal salvation. What an humbling thought to keep me focused during a sermon, rather than distracted and mentally wandering. Additionally, this passage indicates I need a receptive attitude. To understand I do not know all God has revealed, even if I have heard a dozen sermons on the subject. There is always value and benefit to receiving God’s word, even when it is familiar. David wrote, *“The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple”* (Ps. 119:130), and again, *“Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law”* (Ps. 119:18).

We learn more about how to listen to a sermon in Acts 17:11, *“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”* The word was received with “great eagerness.” Some approach a sermon with dread (not because of the speaker) but because of a sick heart. This “eagerness” expresses a strong desire to learn and know God’s will. After the lesson they are praised for examining the Scriptures to ensure the truth was God’s will and not the apostle’s words. What an awesome example for us. What do you do on Sunday afternoons? Many nap. Perhaps we should adopt a habit of examining the Scriptures from the morning sermon to see if these things were true. This would be a good example of eagerness to learn and know. This is the same attitude of the Thessalonians praised by Paul when he said, *“For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe”* (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

After receiving a sermon, and confirming the truth of the lesson, we must then apply it. This was the fallacy of the people in Ezekiel’s time, *“they hear your words but they do not practice them.”* We say ‘it goes in one ear and out the other’. The failure to apply is a failure to listen. The application is the entire reason for listening! It does no good to have an extreme knowledge of God’s will but not practice what He commands. How do you listen to a sermon? I encourage you to examine yourself, and consider carefully what Scripture says on this important subject because it needs to be applied. *“Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely*

Know Your Bible

Back from the Dead

1. What prominent leader of Israel was summoned up from the dead by a witch?
2. What prophet revived the son of the Zarephath widow?
3. Who raised Dorcas from the dead?
4. What man of Bethany was raised from his tomb by Jesus?
5. Whose daughter did Jesus bring back to life?

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.



Who’s In Control?

by Charles Willis

Experience in the public schools taught me that in many homes the children are in control. Their desires are fully met by willing and compliant parents. If the child wants to be in three or four sports simultaneously, the parents agree and spend every waking moment chauffeuring children back and forth. If a food is not “liked”, some parents do not make them try it. If the tv show is rated “restricted”, some parents allow the children to watch it because they wanted to see the “exciting” movie. I’ve seen too many of these type of children. They are portrayed in TV sit-coms. They are evident in cartoon portrayals of children. Real-life families struggle with such problems in our neighborhoods. And I’ve seen some in the church that have given up a Godly responsibility and have caved in to the whims of a child.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1) implies that parents are the on in control. Even in verse 6 it speaks of fathers bringing them up *“in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”* Elders are to be men who manage their household well *“keeping his children under control with all dignity”* (1 Timothy 3:4). Granted, keeping children under control is an awesome task, but the Bible tells parents it takes “discipline” and “instruction.” These are two traits that are sorely missing in many households. Just instruction, or just discipline is not the expectation of God. Along these will not work well. Both instruction and discipline are needed.

Christian parents need to understand the importance of “who’s in control.” It cannot be the children. It should not be the mother. *“The husband is the head of the woman”* (Ephesians 5:23) and the responsibility has been given to him by God to manage his own household (1 Timothy 3:4). The husband’s management should not be according to the world, though many try that. It is a method that demands he IS in control. He rules with a heavy hand and his decisions are supposed to be always right. This will not work for the Christian because *“Christ is the head of every man”* (1 Corinthians 11:3). For this reason we discipline and instruct our children *“in the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4) and they are taught to obey us *“in the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:1). The home that will be pleasing to God is one in which the husband manages the house, but Jesus is in control!



Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. (Psalm 25:4)