



Truth for Today

September 20, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

What Not To Say

by Don Hooton

Today's climate of cultural strife and protests for rights has made all of us blame-shifters and umpires. Whether kneeling at anthems or protesting in streets, fairness in conversation often eludes Americans and we fight. Even Christians are not immune to the Tempter's Snares and rarely catch on when they protest what others are doing in their protests. We pound out our arguments and if we would listen, we would probably discover that, more often than not, we are all expressing frustrations over the same things we all want to change. Yet instead, we march forward with bullhorn and blazes and scream and condemn those who see things different than us.

So – speaking to Christians – who are Americans – our first aim must be to honor Christ. *“Seeking the kingdom first”* (Matthew 6:33) is not only about getting our bodies to the worship hall, it is about making our bodies and soul truly worship the King in the throne room of our lives – every day. Ironically, first century Christians – who had plenty of things forced upon them or executed against them – were not entangled in the political affairs of their day. The freedoms they fought to defend were their freedoms in Christ. The voice they wanted to be heard was the message of Christ. Yet when they fought and when they voiced their objections – it was guided by the teaching and life model of the Savior who died for them.

Why? How? The believed the words they were given were the best alternative – and the only alternative – to bringing harmony in the world that God has commanded of all creation – but especially of those who trust His saving grace. These words are the words they were given:

- *“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”* (2Timothy 2:4, NJKV).
- *“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone serves, let him serve with the strength that God supplies, so that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”* (1Peter 4:11, MEV).
- *“And keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”* (1Peter 3:16, NASB).

To those in their own society, they *“preached Christ crucified”* (1Corinthians 1:18) and did not court to be on the

left or the right – they were centered in Who was truly Lord of their lives. They shared the gospel of story of suffering and glory through the death and resurrection of their Savior – suffering at the hands of their political rivals and their racial countrymen. The line was drawn in their heart and what they did was: *“Live in harmony with one another.”* They were *“not haughty, but associate[d] with the lowly.”* They were told to *“Repay no one evil for evil but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all;”* Because they lived every day with the Divine Mantra of Life witnessed in the life their Savior lived: *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”* (Romans 12:16-21).

The gospel is God's power to save. If that is what we believe, evil will be overcome with good. Our time and energy would be much better served in the defense of the cross rather than a defense of our rights.

For even when Christians' "rights" in the first century were being ignored, they were told to NOT do things: **Do not** be deceived (Galatians 6:7). **Do not** be like them (Matthew 6:8). **Do not** be conformed to this world (Romans 12:2). **Do not** be overcome by evil (Romans 12:21). **Do not** let corrupting talk come out of your mouth (Ephesians 4:29). **Do not** be unequally yoked with unbelievers (2Corinthians 6:14). **Do nothing** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit (Philippians 2:3). **Do not** be arrogant (Romans 12:16). **Do not** be harsh (Colossians 3:19). **Do not** be foolish (Ephesians 5:17). **Do not** be children in your thinking (1Corinthians 14:20). **Do not** be led away the error of unprincipled men (2Peter 3:17). **Do not** be idolators (1Corinthian 10:7). **Do not** be hasty in laying hands on someone (1Timothy 5:22). **Do not** be surprised by the fiery ordeals to test you (1Peter 4:12). And **Do not** be surprised when the world hates you (1Peter 3:13).

Which one of these are optional – in pandemics, protests and political years? Which one of these did first century Christians feel them were exempt from to bring change in the world? Which one of these did Jesus set aside to save the world?

So, Just don't.

Be fair and charitable in your communications with others. Be holy in all your behavior. And, please, think before you leap and “crush the opponent with your argument.” For if Jesus was standing next to you when you do, would He amen your tone of voice?

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Keith Arrants** will have followup from tests.
- **Mickey Chandler** surgery was successful.
- **Brenda Swann** remains in Memorial Herman ICU, Woodlands, but is improving everyday.
- **Judy Gillespie's** husband Ronnie had a thyroid biopsy on Wednesday and gets results this upcoming Thursday!
- **Morgan Potter's** mother, Jackie, will follow up with MDAnderson doctors who postponed her surgery due to the discovery of infection they believe to be cancerous.
- **Dehbrenda Preuss' dad**, Bill Harrison, is at home under hospice care.
- **Carolyn Craig** is home and waiting to schedule a shoulder replacement surgery.
- **Karen Dargan** will return from FL where she has been caring for her parents in their fragile age and **Steve** will be soon travel to do what he can and check on his mother.
- See Enews for Ongoing Prayer List

IN-PERSON SCHEDULE

- **SUNDAYS, 8:30 AM AND 10:00 AM.**
Seating arrangements are based on **pew capacities to maintain safe seating distances**. Please follow recommended wearing of face masks, especially when singing.
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS, 7:00 PM.**
For all ages. Adult class in the auditorium for BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS and children classes will meet in their rooms to resume the curriculum series.
- **TUESDAY CLASS, 10:30 AM.**
For Adults. FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM: *the story of Israel* (from *Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers*) and will meet in the auditorium. **ZOOM is available by request.**
- **ONE SUNDAY SERVICE** begins SUNDAY, 10/18 (Lord willing).

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

- *LiveStream events are still InPerson events and replayable on our YouTube Channel*
- **Worship** | Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- **Adult Class** | Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- **Adult Class** | Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class [2-12]** | (TBA)
- **TEEN DEVO [12-18]** | Sat., 10/10, 6:30 p.m. at the Davis' home.
- **YOUNG ADULTS STUDY** | Sat., 9/26, 5:00 p.m., hosting TBD.
- **ADULTS STUDY [30/40]** | (TBA)
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Monthly Bible Class | Sunday, 9/13/2020. 4:00 p.m.
- **BARNABAS GROUP** | Group Meeting on Sunday, 9/27 between the 8:30 and 10:00 services (9:40-9:55). See Leo Betancourt for more details.
- **MEETING with Daniel Broadwell** | 9/21-23. Printed flyers and postcards are available on the member table. Be sure to check our our FB, Instagram and Twitter accounts and share the social media invitation there.
- **WOMEN'S DAY** with Carmen Betton | 10/10. Printed flyers and postcards are available on the member table. Look for social media notifications soon.
- **MEN'S DAY** with David McClister | 11/7. Printed flyers and postcards are available on the member table. Look for social media notifications soon.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS.** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett, Al or Nathan know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **TEACH?** We NOW need teachers for Winter classes. Please contact Don Hooton if you are willing to teach. Thanks!
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about getting involved in Barnabas Group. **Group Meeting on Sunday, 9/27 between morning services at 9:40-55 a.m.** We have had a few requests for people if we would mail the church bulletin to them. Would you be interested in doing this encouraging work on a bi-monthly basis? Please let Don or Leo know.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel will coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period after surgery or for family at a funeral.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- **PHOTO DIRECTORIES** | If you have problems with the directories we make available, contact Brian Clark. Also, the INSTANTCHURCH-DIRECTORY APP can be downloaded in the APP store so you can get logged in. Members can log into the Online Member Directory at <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> If you have any questions about the DIRECTORY application of our website, be sure to see Brian Clark. We need all updates on the directory by the September 27.
- **WELCOME!** The elders met with and are glad to welcome **Troy and Jane French**, and their son **Carson**, to our membership. Check Enews for their directory info!

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

Week Thirty-Eight (beginning 9/20)

- READ Psalm 37, 87, 137
- MEMORIZE Psalm 37:1-5

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	14	n/a	n/a
Sunday Worship AM	112	62	91	34
Tuesday Adult Class	n/a	n/a	18	0
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	n/a	26	68	8

SUNDAYS	8:30 AM 9/13	10:00 AM 9/13	8:30 AM 9/20	10:00 AM 9/20	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	C. Preuss	D. Haas	C. Preuss	S. Jones	Elders
Foyer 2-Ushering	L. Betancourt	D. Osteen	C. Chapman	H. Clark	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
SongLeading	A. Bohanan	H. Clark	N. Davis	D. Osteen	George Chapman 281.298.1303
1st Prayer	Mitch Harvey	G. LeBlanc	B. Blankenship	N. Shows	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Scripture	R. Randow	T. Chandler	J. Dulin	P. Harshman	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Acts 4:23-31	Galatians 1:1-12	Colossians 3:1-17	Acts 18:24-28	Deacons
Communion_Lead	H. Goble	D. Osteen	N. Davis	G. Betton	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Preaching	D. Hooton	D. Hooton	D. Hooton	D. Hooton	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
2nd Prayer	C. Preuss	L. Cockrell	R. Randow	M. Henss	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Announcements	D. Hooton	M. Chandler	C. Preuss	B. Clark	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	L&J Betancourt	A&M Suarez	K&N Davis	B&T Clark	Evangelists
Sanitize-Pews After	W&R Ray	C. Neel	N. Enright	D&D Haas	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	A. Bohanan	D. Hooton	S. Dargan	G. Chapman	Website
Sound 1	C. Latson	C. Latson	C. Latson	C. Latson	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	Office Phone
Counting Contribution	K. Arrants/H. Clark	K. Arrants/H. Clark	G. Chapman/A. Suarez	G. Chapman/A. Suarez	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:30 PM 9/23		7:00 PM 9/30		Church Email
SongLeading	K. Arrants		D. Haas		woodlandchurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	n/a		G. Chapman		
Prayer	L. Betancourt		R. Randow		
Announcements	D. Hooton		G. Chapman		