



# Truth for Today

August 30, 2020

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

## FACE MASKS

by Sewell Hall

I hate face masks. And apparently many share my dislike. I have learned of questions being raised in several congregations over the country regarding the right of elders to require them in the assemblies of the church.

States differ in their requirements. Surely wearing a face mask is not a sin and if the government authorities require it in church assemblies it seems to me that elders have no choice. The scriptures say, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves" (Romans 13:1-4). We would expect elders to enforce ordinances against smoking in an assembly. And if we are to own a church building, we must comply with building codes that seem to make no sense at all.

In fact, whether elders require it or not, if it is a government ordinance, Christians should comply. "Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (1Peter 2:13-15).

And even when the government does not require them, there are often brethren who feel very strongly about it and are offended if some do not wear them. Some feel so strongly about it that they fear to attend a service if some are not wearing them. Perhaps this is a weakness on their part but "We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, 'The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me'" (Romans 15:1-4).

Jesus gave Peter reasons why He should not have to pay the temple tax, but said, "Nevertheless, **lest we offend them**, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you" (Matthew 17:27). (Emphasis mine – SH)

Paul wrote to the Galatians, "In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything" (5:6). Yet, when he wanted to take Timothy on a preaching trip with

him "he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek" (Acts 16:3).

Paul practiced such accommodations himself. "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:17-22).

"But I don't see any sense in wearing face masks." Perhaps not, but others do. "Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:2-3).

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## UPDATE ON FALL EVENTS SCHEDULE

We are excited to plan for returning closer in the fall to what was our "normal" schedule. Tuesday Morning Class and Wednesday Night Bible Classes for all ages will resume. However, these assemblies will continue with the same recommendations in place from the CDC and our governmental agencies regarding social distancing and face masks. Classrooms for the 2nd grade and up have been fitted with individual small tables and seated in social distance in all classes. The same seating arrangements in the auditorium will be followed for the classes that meet there. This will also, at the moment, be true of our other public events: The Fall Meeting as well as the Woman's and Man's Day Bible Study. As soon as we can lift those recommendations, please be assured we will.

We are planning for Winter quarter as well so any who would be willing to teach then please be sure to contact Don Hooton as soon as you can.

Further, we know that these are trying times in many ways for everyone. So we solicit your prayers for wisdom and strength—as we pray for all of you.

# NEWS & NOTES

## UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- Linda Faughn has been sick but was glad to report it was not COVID related.
- Lyn Ray was admitted Tuesday at the Woodlands Specialty Hospital for an angiogram.
- Dehbrenda Preuss' dad, Bill Harrison, is in the hospital. He underwent tests and a procedure on Tuesday and is trying to rebuild his strength to resume his cancer treatment.
- Jamie Yancy's cousin, Grey McKellar, had a "life vest" defibrillator installed to shock his heart in arrhythmia episodes. He will see a cardiologist to be put on the transplant list to resolve his low ejection fraction in his heart.
- Rommie Back will be at Houston Methodist next Monday for pretesting for stent surgery scheduled on Thursday September 3.
- ECONOMIC CHALLENGES. There are still some of our church family who have had pay-cuts, furloughs and job loss. Please let the Elders know. There are many who are ready to help.
- See Enews for Ongoing Prayer List

## GATHERINGS UPDATE

- Beginning September 6, we will adjust seating arrangements from reserved for specific people to pew capacities on a first come-first seated basis. In other words, pews will be marked with maximum seating.
- No pew will be reserved for families after August.
- Beginning September, MID-WEEK BIBLE CLASSES RESUME:
  - On 9/8, Tuesday class will study FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM: the story of Israel (from Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers) and will meet in the auditorium self-seated in recommended spacings.
  - On 9/2, Wednesday Night Bible Classes: Adults will meet in the auditorium self-seated in recommended spacings for Becoming more like Jesus and children classes will meet in their rooms to resume the curriculum series as well as adjusted to social distanced seating and sanitized regularly.

## VIRTUAL SCHEDULE (beginning September, All LiveStream events are InPerson):

- Worship | LiveStream on Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- Adult Class | FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM: the story of Israel (from Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers) | Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Livestreamed from the auditorium with access on our website and YouTube Channel.
- Adult Class | Becoming more like Jesus | Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. LiveStreamed from the Auditorium with access on our website and our YouTube.

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** [2-12] | (TBA)
- **TEENS STUDY** [13-18] | (TBA)
- **YOUNG ADULTS** | (please respond to the 20s Facebook Group page for interest in meeting in September or Contact Don for more info)
- **TEEN DEVO** [12-18] | (TBA)
- **ADULT STUDY** [30/40] | (TBA)
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Monthly Bible Class | Sunday, 9/6/2020. 4:00 p.m.
- **BARNABAS GROUP** | See Leo Betancourt
- **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 contact Barrett Blankenship (8:30) or Al Suarez (10:00) if you can't serve.
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about Barnabus Group.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Contact Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel if you need coordinated food.
- **TEACH?** We need teachers for Winter Quarter. Contact Don Hooton if you can teach.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

- **PHOTO DIRECTORIES** | Need a PDF of the directory, go [HERE](#) for a copy. If you have problems, contact Brian Clark. Also, the INSTANTCHURCHDIRECTORY 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.
- As was announced last Sunday, the Beighles have told the elders that they will begin worshipping elsewhere and that John resigned as a deacon. We will certainly miss them and pray the Lord's blessings on them.

## WEEKLY BIBLE READING

### Week Thirty-Four (beginning 8/30)

- READ Psalm 34, 84, 134
- MEMORIZE Psalm 34:15-18

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
High School ZOOM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	11	n/a	11
Sunday Worship AM	95	24	113	43
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	n/a	16	n/a	19
Youth Lectures	Total	728	avg per speaker	62

SUNDAYS	8:30 AM   9/6	10:00 AM   9/6	8:30 AM   9/13	10:00 AM   9/13	Contact Information
Foyer 1-Welcome	C. Preuss	D. Haas	C. Preuss	S. Jones	Elders
Foyer 2-Ushering	L. Betancourt	A. Suarez	A. Bohanan	M. Chandler	Keith Arrants   936.582.1244
SongLeading	S. Dargan	D. Haas	K. Arrants	J. Chandler	George Chapman   281.298.1303
1 <sup>st</sup> Prayer	H. Goble	L. Cockrell	H. Clark	G. Betton	Norman Davis   832.326.2966
Scripture	C. Chapman	C. Ford	Michel Harvey	A. Suarez	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Philippians 4:4-9	Acts 20:7-12	Acts 8:26-39	1Timothy 2:1-6	Deacons
Communion_Lead	J. Dulin	M. Chandler	B. Blankenship	B. Clark	Adam Bohanan   281.798.1093
Preaching	D. Hooton	D. Hooton	D. Hooton	D. Hooton	Brian Clark   281.513.0706
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prayer	Mitch Harvey	G. LeBlanc	G. Hodges	L. Ray	Gary LeBlanc   281.292.0262
Announcements	K. Arrants	H. Clark	G. Chapman	N. Davis	Craig Preuss   832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	K&D Arrants	M&C Chandler	N&T Davis	D&T Hooton	Evangelists
Sanitize-Pews After	J. Fancher	J&M Chegin	A&S Bohanan	C&L Ford	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	C. Latson	B. Clark	D. Hooton	D. Haas	Website
Sound 1	C. Latson	C. Latson	C. Latson	C. Latson	<a href="http://www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org">www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org</a>
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	Office Phone
Counting Contribution	G. Chapman	G. Chapman	N. Davis	N. Davis	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM   9/2		7:00 PM   9/9		Church Email
SongLeading	D. Osteen		A. Bohanan		<a href="mailto:woodlandchurchofchrist@gmail.com">woodlandchurchofchrist@gmail.com</a>
Invitation/Talk	B. Blankenship		H. Clark		
Prayer	A. Suarez		L. Cockrell		