

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Cotton Candy Preaching

If I were to ask you what would be worse, to give your children cotton candy or poison, what would you say? In answer to this question most people would very quickly say that poison would be the worst thing to give our children. But consider this, what if all we gave our children to eat was cotton candy? What if cotton candy was their favorite food and that was all they wanted and any time they received anything else they would throw a fit? Would we only give them cotton candy? Would we be loving and concerned parents if we only fed our children this cottony pile of sugar? Most assuredly not! We understand that our children could not survive only on sugar, for they would soon grow weak and sick and would soon die. So, what is worse for us to give our children, only cotton candy or poison? The truth is that both will eventually kill our children.

Now let us make a spiritual application. Is it worse to teach in the Lord's church false doctrine or to teach simple pleasant truths from God's Word? In answer to this question most people would quickly say that false doctrine would be the worst thing of all to teach. But consider this, what if we only taught concerning the loving story of Ruth, or about benevolence, or about the need for loving families, or about the need to feel good about ourselves? Now these are topics that we should be concerned about and are issues of interest, and should be taught. But, can a Christian survive spiritually solely on this kind of diet? Can a child of God mature and be grounded in the faith solely on these kinds of meals? The answer is no!

There are many preachers and teachers in the Lord's church who are not teaching error, but neither are they being distinct in their preaching and teaching. Many are given more to proclaim what the brethren want to hear than what they need to hear. Concerning the people of Isaiah's day, the Lord declared, "For it is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of Jehovah; that say to the seers, see not; and to the prophets, prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits" (Isaiah 30:9-10). Many today are clamoring for the same things as the Israel of old—smooth things, and sweet and pleasant words. And what is even more disturbing are the preachers and teachers who are giving into their cry with sermons and lessons filled with nothing but "lovey-dovey mush."

Many preach to please men and tickle their ears with what they like to hear. Paul said, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or, do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). Paul warned Timothy about people who have "itching ears" and warned that such people will gather around those who will scratch their ears by teaching lies (2 Timothy 4:3-4). The whole counsel of God must be preached, regardless of how it is received (Acts 20:26-27)! The truth is truth and must be preached! I did not write the book (Bible) and have no right to "water it down" to please men.

The apostle Paul declared, "I shrank not from declaring unto you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house... Wherefore I testify unto you this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:20, 26:27). If we really care for our families and brethren the actions of Paul will be true of us! Furthermore, Paul also said, "Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2). You will notice that good Gospel preaching demands positive and negative proclamation of truth. But as already mentioned, some "will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth and turn aside unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). But we must not allow

this attitude to influence us away from preaching the whole counsel of God.

There are too many “cotton candy preachers” in the brotherhood who are “sugar coating” the brethren into spiritual decay! Tell me, which are worse, false teachers or cotton candy preachers? The truth is they both will cause the spiritual demise of their listeners.

—Tom Moore

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Betty Branson in the loss of her brother, **James Curtis Parum**. Curtis passed away on Monday, December 20th in Midland, TX. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Hubbard Kelly Funeral Home. He was 88 years old. Keep Betty and the Parum family in your prayers.

Gloria Craig has requested prayers for her friend and co-worker Joy Raines in the passing of her husband on December 28th. **Jeff Raines** was found by his wife in an un-responsive state early that morning. This family needs prayers.

Prayer Request

Elaine Huntington has a health issue that will require surgery in the near future. Keep her in your prayers that she can get this surgery and that all goes well and she returns to good health.

Concerns Update

LaDonna Chism is still in need of prayers. She is in Room #531 at Medical Center Hospital being treated for cellulitis in her legs.

Laura McKnight was put under Hospice Care Monday, December 27th. She has been ill for a long time. Laura is a member of the Sherwood Church of Christ and a friend of Devida's.

Prayer List

David Alaniz; Rudy Alaniz; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Hugo Grijalva; Doug Guynn; Rosanna Herrera; Tiffany Horton; Alex Martinez; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Laura McKnight; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Julie Munoz; Cain Pilgrim; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chasidy Rayos; Jackie Rex; Daniel Reyes; Lisa Salas; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; John Wood, Natalynn Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna McCarty; Jackie Rex; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... (Finish the Beatitude)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness... (?)

Last Week's Quiz Answer...

“Blessed are the peacemakers...for they shall be called sons of God.

Events

Watch *“In Search of the Lord's Way”* Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Surrender Your Life...Or Lose Your Life!

Jesus said, Mark 8:35-37 “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” There are two roads you can take: Living for yourself, which leads to eternal death; or living for Jesus, which leads to eternal life. The self-made

road may include some success and acquisitions and pleasures along the way, but Jesus asks, “*Are these things more important than your soul?*” Losing your life for Jesus means you surrender your LIFE; Your all; Your money; Your time; Your hopes; Your dreams; Your desires; Your goals; Everything that is you. You surrender them all to Jesus. You lose a life, but you gain a life, and the life you gain is way better than the life you lose.

Lay down your life before Jesus and you will have great gain in this life. Surrender your- self to Him and you will also save your soul for an eternity.

1. We know that “if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him...” Paul says in **(2 Timothy 2:11-13)**.
2. We know that “we are justified by His grace and are therefore heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” **(Titus 3:5-7)**
3. We know that once we have “fought the good fight, and have finished the course, and have kept the faith that there is laid up for us a crown of righteousness which the Lord will reward to us on that day” **(2 Timothy 4:6-8)**.
4. We know that “we have a living hope and that we will obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away. Reserved for us in heaven” **(I Peter 1:3-4)**.
5. We know that “we have a faith that is more precious than gold which is perishable, that will result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ, when we will obtain the salvation of our souls” **(I Peter 1:7-9)**.
6. We know that “death will be swallowed in victory **(I Corinthians 15:54)**; that we will be made just like Him **(1 John 3:2)**; and that we will drink from the spring of the water of life without cost” **(Revelation 21:4-7)**.

—Andy Miller
Starkville, MS

Starkville Church of Christ

January 2, 2022	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Don Eason	Larry May
Second Prayer	Gary Loving	Richard Siler
Closing Prayer	Bill Brown	Tom Sorenson
Lords Supper		Bill Ryan
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	<u>Craig Wesson</u>	Communion
	Kirk McFarland	(In Library)
	Jr. Munoz	
	Jon Roemisch	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547 —*Deacon:* John Wood 413-7444 -*Pulpit:* Bill Ryan 352-4871 —*Table:* David Ryan 512-924-0983 —*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—
Recording Sermons: Tommy Garcia 312-5332 — *Collections:* T. Garcia & D. Ryan

Sunday AM

“TBA”

Sunday PM

“TBA”

Our Records

Bible Class... 55