

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Importance of the Church

After Adam and Eve sinned, God made a veiled promise that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent (i.e., Satan) (Genesis 3:15). Christ is literally the seed of the woman (Matthew 1:21-23), and by His death upon the cross He literally destroyed the power of Satan (Hebrews 2:15; Col. 2:15). Later, God made a promise to Abraham that in his seed all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3) and this, too, was fulfilled by Christ (Galatians 3:16; Eph. 1:3). To emphasize the importance of the church, let the reader be impressed with the fact that everything that God ever promised or prophesied about the salvation of the human race is summed up in the church (Ephesians 1:3-11). *The Plan of Salvation* was not completed when Christ died on the cross, but His death was necessary for the church to be established, which occurred on the first Pentecost after His resurrection (Acts 2:1-47).

1. *How the Holy Spirit classifies those out of the church, the body of Christ.* The church is the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 5:23, 25). In this sublime epistle He says that those out of Christ or out of the church, are: (1) dead in sins, separated from God and Christ (Ephesians 2:1); (2) they are children of disobedience (Eph. 2:2); (3) children of wrath, subject to God's displeasure (Eph. 2:3); (4) aliens from the Lord (Eph. 2:12; 4:18); (5) strangers from the covenant of promise, therefore, without promise (Eph. 2:12); (6) afar off from Christ (Eph. 2:13, 17); (7) have no hope (Eph. 2:12); (8) WITHOUT GOD (Eph. 2:12); and (9) IN THE WORLD (Eph. 2:12). There are only two places a responsible person can be, either in Christ wherein is salvation, or in the world of sin (I Timothy 5:6; 1 Jn. 2:16-17).

2. *Condition of those in Christ.* That is, if they are living faithfully before God, they are: (1) Made alive in Christ and brought into union with the Godhead (Eph. 2:5); (2) made nigh in Christ (Eph. 2:13); (3) reconciled to God (Eph. 2:16); (4) blessed with access to God (Eph. 2:18); (5) fellow citizens in the kingdom (Eph. 2:19); (6) members of God's household (Eph. 2:19); (7) built upon the solid rock, the foundation laid by the teaching of New Testament prophets and apostles (Eph. 2:20); (8) framed into the holy temple of God (Eph. 2:21); (9) and form the habitation of God (Eph. 2:22). This is all found only in the church.

3. *The place of reconciliation.* "Reconciliation" means to be made friends again, to be brought together again. Where does the sinner's reconciliation to God take place? Paul says, "***That he might reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) unto God in ONE BODY***" (Eph. 2:16) But, what body is this? Christ was specifically given to be "head over all things to the church, which is his body" (Col. 1:18). It is easy for the honest soul to see that the church and the body are the same and since reconciliation takes place in the body, it occurs in the church. Christ is the Savior of the body (Eph. 5:15). He shed His blood and purchased it (Acts 20:28). Can one be saved out of the church? If he can be, he is saved as an alien, a stranger, in darkness, without any promise or hope, without God and Christ and while yet in the world of sin. But in the church one is a saint (Eph. 2:19). This comes from the same word that is translated "sanctify," or "be made holy." "Sanctify" means to consecrate to religious service to God, but one cannot be set apart unto God's service outside the body, wherein he is reconciled.

4. *In Christ one is built upon the foundation. Christ is the rock, the foundation of the church.* When He said "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Mt. 16:18), He referred to Himself. The apostle Paul clearly stated, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus

Christ” (I Cor. 3:11). This was and is done by preaching the Gospel of Christ (I Cor. 3:6-10; 2 Thess. 2:15). The prophets mentioned in Ephesians 2:20 are not Old Testament prophets, but prophets of the New Testament dispensation. **“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets...”** (I Cor. 12:28). To be saved, one must be built upon the foundation. Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27 that those who hear and obey His words are they who build upon the rock, the foundation. Let us not be classed as foolish by failing or refusing to obey Christ in all things. Let us appreciate the importance of His church.

—Roy J. Hearn

Prayer Requests

Sylvia Campos is scheduled to have cataract eye surgery on January 9th. She has requested prayers that all will go well without any complications. Keep Sylvia in your prayers.

Melissa Moore has an upper respiratory infection and also a sinus infection. She is in need of prayers. Carter Wesson (Craig & Kallie’s baby son) had a cold last week and had to stay in.

Concerns Update

Charles Simmons (Susan’s husband) is in Madison Medical Resort. He is in Rm#307.

Prayer List

Brian Basaldua; Don Blackwell; Andrea Berry; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Cindy Campbell; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Lavern Couch; Emma Craig; Ronald Dement; Bessie Diaz; Loyce Driver; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Thomas Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Winford Hambright; Irene Hernandez; Leo Holloway; Letha Hooper; Vertie Howard; Betty Leeth; Jed Martin; Ora McAfee; Krysta McMullen; Jason Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Juanita Orosco; Caydon Parker; Trina Plyler; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Debra Shipley; Janelle Shirley; Charles & Susan Simmons; Mark Thompson; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Everley Wells; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Jay Wesson; Tom Wilcox; Carolyn Wilkerson; Sondie Williamson; John Wood.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question... (Fill in the blank)

Thomas, the one who was always ridiculed for skepticism, was also known as _____ (Jn. 20:24).

Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer ...

Someone lost an axe head in the Jordan River. So, Elisha made it float.

Events

Watch **“In Search of the Lord’s Way”** every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Office News

JANUARY ATTENDED NURSERY

01/05/20 Larriat & Hannah

01/12/20 Robbie & Holly

01/19/20 Sonia & Ashley

01/26/20 Linda T. & Devida

NOTE: All the ladies are invited to a “*Baby Shower*” honoring Kayla Easlon at Bonnie Sorenson’s home at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 18th. Kayla and David are having a girl. The registry is at Target & Babylist. (Kindly RSVP to Ashley—(432) 210-9659.

New Mailing Address: (until further notice)

LaDonna Chism, P.O. Box 69393, Odessa, TX. (79769)

Yesterday’s Prayers

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we are admonished to “pray without ceasing” to accurately depict a constant prayerful attitude, or having begun a life of prayer to continue, or both. The Bible is replete with examples of the wicked suffering punishment, but it also describes what would appear to be “good folk” just as shut out as those seeking refuge in Noah’s day after the door was shut. In Luke 13:25-28, there were people who attempted to protest of being shut out based upon familiarity. It didn’t work. In Matthew 7:22ff, people who actually carried out or at least professed to have carried good works were also denied entry. Five of the ten virgins found themselves shut out of the marriage feast because they were unprepared. The only common thread relative to these stories is the active continuation of our faith sufficient to the day in which we live.

As was noted in the Bruce Commentaries in the case of the virgins, “the oil was good oil while it lasted but the oil that was used yesterday will not keep today’s lamps lit.” Maybe the end of time will come without warning Matthew 25:13. Maybe a time of temptation will come when we don’t expect it. Such daily prayers not only see to our daily need but also keep us “primed” for spiritual thought in the middle of a carnal world. Jesus prayed often and we are not amiss to assume that while in this earthly body he recognized a tremendous need to do so. Is such recognition lost to us? Are we only able to see that need under duress or oppression? Let us gravitate from praying for preparedness to understanding more clearly that prayer is preparing. Let us focus on the day at hand. Yesterday is gone and the fight is at hand. Whatever we did or failed to do pales in comparison to where we are now. The things we could have done or said and didn’t may haunt the particulars of our memory and that is truly sad. But, oh, how tragic should we recognize a need, have the knowledge to correct it and still let it slip away. Let us then resolve a greater diligence regarding the actions we may employ today because of yesterday’s prayers.

—Tim Turpin

January 5, 2020	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Cody Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Josh Weakland	David Ryan
Second Prayer	Gary Loving	Charles Wood
Closing Prayer	Don Easlon	Bill Brown
Lord’s Supper		
(Scripture Reading)	<u>Cody Wesson</u>	
West...	Jackie Perkins	Tom Sorenson
	Oliver Hernandez	Communion
	David Ryan	(In Library)
East	Kevin Wilcox	
	Josh Wells	
	Craig Wesson	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson 556-5547—*Deacon*: Jr. Munoz 363-1309 — *Pulpit*: Scot Straw 288-4533—
Table: Tom Sorenson 638-9447— *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons*: Tommy Garcia 638-2702 —
Collections: Scot Straw 288-4533

Sunday AM

"Weaned Child"
(*Psalm 131:2*)

Sunday PM

"Power of the Gospel"
(*Romans 1:16-17*)

Our Records

Bible Class... 73
Morning Worship...110
Evening Worship...76
Wednesday...30
Contribution...\$3,957.00