

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Trouble in the Church

Trouble has existed in the world since Adam and Eve decided to rebel against God's specific command (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6). Their home was later troubled with jealousy and murder (Genesis 4:1-8). Homes were further troubled when the practice of polygamy was introduced to the world (Genesis 4:19). Trouble remained in the world as "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). In His anger and grief, God determined to cleanse the world of its corruption (Genesis 6:6-7). Trouble would come again after the flood of Noah's day when men began to corrupt themselves in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13:13; 18:20). As nation's developed more wealth and power, we find the practices of slavery, war and oppression (Exodus 1:7-14). Even God's nation, Israel, had its share of trouble in the forms of immorality, idolatry and willful ignorance (2 Kings 17). The Old Testament is full of examples of individuals and nations that brought trouble upon themselves as a direct result of their choices.

What about the New Testament? All one has to do is read a verse such as Matthew 26:67 which says, "Then did they spit in His face and buffeted (beat) Him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands." The student of the Bible knows that this verse is describing the treatment that Jesus was receiving the night before He was crucified. John recorded that Jesus had been arrested by a band (detachment, NKJ) of troops (John 18:3). The word that the Holy Spirit used is a Greek term that meant 600 soldiers! Matthew simply stated that He was arrested by a "great multitude with swords and staves" (Matthew 26:47). These were the men who were spitting on, beating and slapping Jesus repeatedly! Jesus was very well familiar with the fact that trouble is a reality in this world.

What about God's people today? Sadly, it is the case that trouble still exists for those who strive to follow the will of God. We have been warned that this would happen (2 Timothy 3:12). It should not be a surprise to us when trouble comes (1 Peter 4:12-16). The Timothy and Peter passages refer to external forces that face God's people because of righteous living, not because of sinful activities. What is far worse, in this writer's opinion, is when trouble exists among God's people because of actions taken or words spoken by members of God's family. False teachers can cause trouble in the Lord's church (2 Peter 2:1-3). Immoral conduct can cause trouble among God's people (1 Corinthians 5). Competition and a desire for preeminence can cause trouble within the church (3 John 9-11). What is the solution to such problems in the church? Simply put, God's people must be more concerned about God's will and work than their own. Paul wrote, "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cling to that which is good. Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another" (Romans 12:9-10). First Peter 2:17 instructs us to "Love the brotherhood." Whatever we do is all to be done "to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Paul commanded the Romans, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Romans 14:19). Unity can be attained in the body of Christ! Jesus prayed for it (John 17:20-21) and Paul commanded it (1 Corinthians 1:10). The key to diminishing trouble in the church and between individuals is found in John 17:14 and 17; "I have given them Thy word...Thy word is truth." Each child of God has responsibility in this area. The church is the body of Christ and we are members of one another (Romans 12:5). To each of us the Bible says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18). If there is trouble in the church, do not be the cause—be a source of encouragement and strength for those who are struggling.

Church Attendance Trouble

Covid virus—"church attendance trouble" may have long-term "ill affects" on our Bible Study and Worship Attendance. Thus, let us commit ourselves that, once the Covid dangers are no longer a concern, then, we will

resume our faithful attendance in all the services of the church.

Barry O'Dell

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Laura McKnight**. Laura passed away on December 29th at MCH. Her services are pending. She will be buried in the VA cemetery in Abilene, TX. Keep her family in your prayers during this sad time.

Prayer Request

Glenna Callendar (McCarty) will have her heart procedure done in Lubbock. Keep Glenna in your prayers that all will go well for her.

Ora McAfee had another fall, but did not break any bones. She is back at Encompass for more physical therapy.

Philip Halbert underwent testing for fluid around his lungs. Please keep Phil in your prayers that he gets the correct diagnosis.

Elizabeth Elaine Melville (daughter of Elaine Huntington) was diagnosed with the Covid virus, but she is doing fine. Elizabeth lives in Australia.

Hannah Weakland was sick with the flu last week.

Daniel Reyes requested prayers for his brother **Carlos Reyes** who was having symptoms of the Covid virus last week. He was awaiting the test results.

Larry May was out sick last week with cold like symptoms.

Lisa Wells (Josh Wells' mom) had a stroke on December 28th. She was hospitalized but was released and is undergoing Physical Therapy.

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; Elaine Huntington; Alex Martinez; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; 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 ...

Which minor prophet was a shepherd and a fig tree gardener?

Last Week's Quiz Answer...

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness...for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

Events

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

Thought to Remember

The devil won't bother you while you're living in sin, he'll bother you when you are trying to get out!

You never get something without giving up something

Find the Narrow Way!

The Bible teaches that the majority of people will not enter heaven. This is sad to think about, but the Bible says, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13-14)

The Bible teaches that only a “few” will find that strait gate and narrow way. This is contrary to what many people base their religion on today. Many say, the majority is a safe guide, but this passage proves that it is not a safe guide. The only safe and sure guide is the Bible. God’s Word is the only thing that will take us from earth to heaven.

We must have a “thus saith the Lord” for all that we do or say in our worship to be pleasing to God. **2 Timothy 2:15** says, “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” I urge each of us to make certain that what we practice in religion can be found in the Bible. Remember **Matthew 7:21**; “*Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven.*”

If anyone misses Heaven, he will have no one to blame but himself. We have been “*given all things that pertain unto life and godliness*” (2 Peter 1:3). The Scriptures give us everything to make man perfect (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

—Tommy Stacks
via Eastside church of Christ
Muskogee, OK

January 9, 2022	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jon Roemisch	Cody Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Scot Straw	Isaiah Armendariz
Second Prayer	Charles Wood	Jacob Carson
Closing Prayer	Jr. Munoz	John Wood
Lords Supper		Bill Ryan
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	<u>Don Easlon</u> Oliver Hernandez Gary Loving Larry May	Communion (In Library)

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

“*Going to Heaven*”
(Hebrews 4:11-16)

Sunday PM

“*Wisdom in Relationships*”
(Proverbs 8:1-11)