

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The One Who Endures

The ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said, *“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.”* Most of us have heard this statement in one form or another many times in our lives. We understand it to mean that we cannot reach any goal, no matter how near or far, until we have taken a step toward that goal. This makes perfect sense, but it is not the whole story.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle, who lived about 300 years after Lao Tzu, said, *“Well begun is half done.”* This statement is less well-known, but perfectly complements Lao Tzu’s proverb. Aristotle understood human nature. He knew that we often content ourselves with the fact that we’ve begun something, but then never complete it, or complete it inadequately. Thus, he admonished against being satisfied with a good beginning.

As useful as these proverbs may be in secular matters, neither of them adequately addresses the most important matter of all: eternal life. The scriptures, not surprisingly, cover every aspect of this journey. In Matthew 7:13-14 the Lord said, ***“Enter through the narrow gate: for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*** This is the beginning of the journey to eternal life. This step is taken when one obeys the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of his sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). If one does not take this step, he will never reach heaven.

Then, in Matthew 24:10-13 the Lord said, ***“At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”*** This statement covers the completion of the journey to eternal life. Taking the first step begins the journey to eternal life, but only those who remain faithful to the Lord until the end will reach heaven.

In between the first step and the last step the scriptures offer this admonition from the pen of Peter: ***“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them”*** (2 Peter 2:20-21). This is the inspired equivalent to Aristotle’s *“Well begun is half done.”* Peter tells us that having begun the journey to eternal life we must not turn off the path. Those who begin well, but do not finish will suffer condemnation from the Lord.

A modern proverb says, *“Winners never quit and quitters never win.”* We understand that this refers to one’s heart rather than the results on the field of competition. We use it to

encourage each other in whatever endeavor we might undertake, and it fits that purpose well. When we reflect upon this proverb in a spiritual context, however, we discover that it applies both to one's character and the results of our efforts. In 2 Timothy 4:7-8 Paul told Timothy that he anticipated receiving the crown of righteousness because he had been faithful to the end. He also said that this reward was reserved for all who would do as he had done. All who are faithful to the end will enter heaven, just as Jesus said. ***“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”***

—Fred Dominguez

Response

Casey Cleveland responded to the invitation Wednesday night, December 30th stating that he wants to repent of forsaking the assembly and also desires to place his membership with us here at Eisenhower and work under the guidance of our eldership.

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Ruby Davis and family in the loss of her last sister-in-law, **Gertie Atchison**, the last week of December. Gertie's funeral services were held Saturday, January 2nd at the church of Christ in Stanton, TX.

Also, **Kenneth Atchison** (Ruby's nephew) was killed in a car accident Wednesday, December 30th near Abilene. He and his wife were traveling back to Abilene after spending Christmas with their daughter who lives in Houston. Kenneth was 71. Keep this family in your prayers.

Prayer Request

Arlene Poses (Tony Marr's mother) is in Midland Memorial Hospital. Arlene is dealing with serious health issues and her last prognosis was not too encouraging.

Charles Simmons is scheduled for a surgical procedure in San Angelo on Friday, January 8th. The burning of the nerves in his lower back is supposed to alleviate much of the pain that he is going through.

Meta Troutz (Kim Guynn's mother) is in ICU at Medical Center Hospital with pneumonia.

Dwayne and Larriat McGhee and Mark and Stacey Ruckman were involved in a bad car accident in Colorado last week. We are very thankful they were not injured.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Betty Branson; Bobbie Braun; Neva Carrigan; Hazel Cavanaugh; Steve Chavez; Cruz Coe; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Todd Drake; John Ford; Gloria Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Linda Horton; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Jill McAfee; Jack McCarty; Anna McGlothlin; Patty Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Laura Olivas; Connie Phelps; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Andrew Schwarz; Christa Bella Sellers; Brenda Simmons; Meta Troutz; Marilyn Upshaw; Teresa Vires; Jill Wallace; Lisa Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; Haylee Wint; Toya Zambelli

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

We have several dear members of this congregation who, because of illness and/or advanced age, are not able to assemble with us on the Lord's Day for Bible Study and Worship as they would like. They mean a great deal to us and we love them very much. These members are: Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Anna Groves; Roberta Hamil; Winford Hambright; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

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

Events

The Sheffield church of Christ will have a Gospel Meeting (January 24-27) with Stacey Mobley from Colorado Springs, CO. Their announcement is posted on the bulletin board with the time of the services. Please try to support this gospel meeting if you are able.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

What meat did Gideon feed to an angel?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

The miracle of Jesus feeding 5,000 (not counting women and children) with five loaves and two fish was mentioned in all four of the gospels.

FYI

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "*Speaking the Truth in Love*" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Wedding Announcement...

Congratulations goes out to **Bill Brown and Mary Bayless** as they were united in Holy Matrimony, January 1st, 2016 by Allen Weakland; may their lives together be one of service to God.

Office News

The Tipton Children's Home will be here March 8th-10th for their food drive. They are requesting: **Assorted Cereal, Assorted Soup, Ritz Crackers, Assorted Spices, Tomato Sauce, Vegetable Oil, Microwave Popcorn, Enchilada Sauce, Cough Drops, Toilet Bowl Cleaner and Disinfectant Spray.**

Food for Thought... Be thankful if your dreams have not come true; neither have your nightmares

January 10, 2016

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	John Carroll	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Bill Tolbert	Richard Siler
Second Prayer	George Warren	John Wood
Closing Prayer	Rudy Ochoa	Bill Ryan
Lord's Supper		
West...	Trinidad Wood	Bill Brown
	Craig Wesson	Communion
	Josh Weakland	(In Library)
East...	Josh Wells	
	Richard Siler	
	Dylan Straw	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990; *Deacon*: Rudy Ochoa 381-0759; *Pulpit*: Chris Butler 362-7486;
Table: Bill Brown 272-50459; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Tony Marrs 553-7349
Collections: Tony Marrs 553-7349

Sunday AM

"Pierce my Ear"
(Exodus 21:1-11)

Sunday PM

"Temptation"
(James 1:12-18)

Our Records

Bible Class... 81
Morning Worship...135
Evening Worship...81
Wednesday...NC
Contribution...\$5,555.60

