

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Chicken Little Syndrome

More and more as I travel among churches I am being asked if I think the church can survive the onslaught of liberalism. My answer is an emphatic YES.

Most of us remember the storybook tale of *Chicken Little*. After the chicken was hit on the head by an acorn that fell from a tree, he quickly jumped to the conclusion that the sky was falling. He went forth with fervor to tell his friends of the impending doom. He was obsessed with sounding the alarm: *The sky is falling; the sky is falling!*

Negativism is a powerful force. It has been said that if we hear something positive, we will tell three other persons; if we something negative we will tell eleven others. Good news travels fast, but bad news travels faster.

Chicken Little's barnyard friends, Turkey Lurky and Ducky Lucky were scared into sharing in the panic too. They joined him in spreading the message of doom based on an unsupported belief.

Soon, the clever Foxy Loxy comes on the scene and offers refuge to the feathered trio in his den. There's not a chicken, turkey or duck in his right mind that would go for "safety" in a fox den. But, as most children know, the feathered friends marched into the den to escape the falling sky. The sky didn't destroy them. The fox did them in. No! Their fear did them in.

The human mind, if not guarded, will tend to think the worst and set out to bring it about. This behavior is called catastrophizing or awfulizing, as the mind panics and believes the worst is yet to be.

The Chicken Little syndrome is more than a worry; it is a belief so strong that it produces fear which believes nothing can be done about the problem. Thus, "Chicken Little" simply runs around sounding the alarm.

There are many problems in the church which have the potential for causing the Chicken Little syndrome. When this syndrome sets in, it robs one of joy, peace, and contentment. It also leads to some of the following exaggerations:

- Some young people are having problems with their faith; this means that the "young are all going to the dogs."
- Some preachers are leaving sound doctrine; this means that all preachers are going off the deep end.
- Some congregations are abandoning the restoration plea; this means the church will cease to exist.
- Some colleges are going liberal; this means that all our schools are going down the tubes.
- I have tried to share the Gospel and have been rejected time after time; this means *no one* wants to hear the Good News.
- A few elders, deacons and preachers go sour; this means the church is without any leadership.
- A few women want to preach; this means that sooner or later all women will want to be in the pulpit.

All of these issues are important. But Christians must be realistic thinkers. The Bible affirms people will depart from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1-5) and we must realize this. But we must also continue to believe in the power of the Gospel and the eternal nature of Christ's

church, a church the gates of Hell cannot stop. (Matthew 16:13-18)

As we face tough times, we must not panic or exaggerate. We must not conclude that error and false teachers have more power than God. We must spend more time listening to God through His Word and less time listening to our negative self-talk.

As teachers and students, we must challenge the negative and exaggerated conclusions reached by those possessed by the Chicken Little syndrome. How do you know (for sure) the sky is falling?

—J. J. Turner

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Jeff Wesson in the loss of his uncle, **Robert Bryan Hunt**, who passed away on December 15th, in Houston, TX. A memorial service was held last weekend in Houston. Keep Jeff and all his family in your prayers.

Devida, also lost her last uncle **Skid Montgomery** last Sunday night, January 7th, in Idaho, OH. He had been diagnosed with Covid and also suffered from other health issues. His services were held in Waverly, OH. Friday, January 12th. Keep his family in your prayers.

Prayer Request

James Drake had a seizure last Tuesday morning and has been put under Hospice Care. He is in need of prayers at this time.

Prayer List Mary Anchondo; Maria Baeza; Irene Balerio; Ameer Blumenauer; Mary Brown; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; LaDonna Chism; James Drake; Jon Easley; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Brent Harrell; Lon & Lana Howard; Connie Jimenez; Vanessa Machuca; Leigh Ann McFarland; Charlene McFatter, Keith Mitchell; Milous Mitchell; Juan & Estella Morolez; Inocencio Munoz, Sr; Julie Munoz; Bruce Plyler; K' Lynn Roberts; Linda Straw; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Lindsey Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; John Wood; Wilene Wright.

Eisenhower's Homebound...

Glenna Callendar; James & Joyce Drake; Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

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

Events

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

Just a reminder: **Jeff Miller, Ph.D.** will be here on April 19th, 20th and 21st to present lessons on "Fossils" deposited in the earth's foundation proving evidence of God's creation model. We want to encourage everyone to attend, if at all possible.

We want to update our **"Membership Picture Board"** in the foyer. There is a signup sheet posted in the "South" foyer for you to select the day you want to have your picture taken. We will only be working with one month at a time.

Baby Shower

Ladies, you are invited to a **"Baby Shower"** honoring Kamryn Wesson on Saturday, February 10th at 10:00 a.m. at Bonnie Sorenson's home. Kamryn's selections are at La Be Be and Baby List.com. Please come and help Kamryn and Cody celebrate their upcoming arrival of their baby girl.

Office News...

We will have a “**Potluck Luncheon**” on January 28th following our morning service followed by our P.M. service. Our visitors are welcome to join us.

The Apostle Paul and his three “I Ams”

There is great concern in the Lord’s church today about “church growth.” Why does the church not grow as it once did? All kinds of reasons have been given for this problem, but basically, it comes back to the degree of commitment of each church member. The church is composed of all who have been saved from past sins in obedience to the Gospel of Christ. The degree to which each man and woman, each boy and girl, is dedicated to saving lost souls will determine volumes about church growth. Let us look at the determination of Apostle Paul:

I am [a] Debtor (Romans 1:14). One who is a debtor feels a keen responsibility to pay the debt. Each member of the church owes his fellowman, as much as he has time, ability, and opportunity, the responsibility of getting him knowledge of salvation. While one is effective in the use of one particular means, he may not be effective in the use of other available means. Let us thank God for great radio programs where masses of people are being reached with the saving message. We have wonderful tracts on practically every Bible subject imaginable, which can be used to good advantage. Open Bible studies, correspondence courses, and many other means of spreading the Word are available. It has been claimed that nine out of ten members have never tried in any way to win a soul for Christ. What a problem!

I am Ready (Romans 1:15). The devil does not care how great the ability, how charming the personality, or how excellent the knowledge is, if a person, whatever the reason, is not ready to try to make a difference. Soul-winning success is not as much a matter of personality and eloquence as is concern and love.

I am Not Ashamed (Romans 1:16). Each member must realize that as a soldier in the Lord’s army, he must not be afraid of ridicule, rejection and criticism. Each must put on the whole armor of God and take a stand.

Debtors will win souls, those ready to teach and live for Jesus and those not ashamed.

—Arnott Lowder

January 14th, 2024	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Steve Easlon	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture Reading	Scot Straw	Richard Siler
Second Prayer	Charles Wood	Jacob Carson
Closing Prayer	Larry May	David Baldwin
Lord’s Supper	<u>Caleb York</u>	Bill Ryan
	Travis Ruckman	Communion
	Jackie Perkins	(In Library)
	Jr. Munoz	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209— *Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775—*Pulpit:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332—*Table:* Bill Ryan 272-5507 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 —*Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson *Contributions:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“Positive Spiritual Change”
(II Corinthians 7:8-12)

Sunday PM

“Servant of Jesus”
(James 1:1)

Our Records

Bible Class... 71
Morning Worship... 114
Evening Worship ... 67
Wednesday... 70
Contribution... \$6,050.25