

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## The Only Ones?

“Do you all think you are the only ones who are right?” “Is it true that you believe you are the only ones going to Heaven?” How should we answer such questions? Can we be dogmatic about answering them?

Ours is an age of broad-mindedness. Tolerance is shown to everyone except those who are not broad-minded. Often, the most intolerant attitudes are manifested by those who are allegedly the most tolerant. Thus, the claim that a certain way is the only way or the idea that certain ones are the only approved ones is rejected immediately by our general culture. Notwithstanding these cultural attitudes, Jesus said that the way that leads to eternal life is narrow and that the broad way leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14). In fact, God’s way has always been narrow. Throughout Bible history, certain ones have been the only ones who were pleasing to God.

Cain and Abel made offerings of worship to God. Abel’s offering was accepted, Cain’s was rejected (Genesis 4:1-5). Of the two worshippers the only one who pleased God was Abel. Suppose Cain said, “Do you think your worship is the only kind acceptable to God? Do you think that you are the only one who is right?” How could Abel have answered? He could have said, “I believe that God’s way is the only right way and that is the way I am seeking to follow.”

Likewise, Nadab and Abihu offered worship to God. However, they “offered strange fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord” (Leviticus 10:1-2). Imagine some friends of Nadab and Abihu saying to the other priests, “Do you think you are the only ones who worship correctly? Do you think the depository of God’s truth on how to worship rests with you?” I doubt that conversation took place, for God had demonstrated that there was one way to worship Him and that was His way. One of the major theological principles of the Bible is that God’s holiness be honored by strict observance of His ordinances.

In 1 Samuel 13, King Saul was surrounded by the Philistine army. He waited seven days for Samuel to come and offer a burnt offering to God. When Samuel did not arrive, Saul grew impatient and took it upon himself to offer the sacrifice himself. No sooner had he finished offering the sacrifice when Samuel arrived. Samuel immediately rebuked Saul for his unlawful sacrifice. Visualize Saul saying to Samuel, “Do you think you and your little bunch are the only ones approved of by God in offering sacrifices? Do you think you are the only ones?” How could Samuel have replied? He might have said, “God has authorized certain ones as the only ones qualified to perform this action. If you have a problem with that, you can take it up with the Lord.”

A similar instance is found in the action of King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:16-21). King Uzziah entered the temple of God and burnt incense upon the altar. Azariah, the priest, with eighty others, confronted him with his sin. They said: “It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the Lord, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense” (2 Chronicles 26:18). Uzziah became furious. Envision Uzziah saying, “Do you think that you and your little group of priests are the only ones who can burn incense to God? What a self-serving, narrow-minded group of legalists you all are! Why you must think you’re the only game in town!” The truth is that these priests were the only ones God had authorized to perform this act of service. God struck Uzziah with leprosy until the day of his death.

Uzza was struck dead by God for touching the Ark of the Covenant (I Chronicles 13:10). This could have been avoided. God had decreed that the ark be transported by only Levites who would put poles in the rings of the ark and carry it by holding on to the poles (Exodus 25:10-16; I Chronicles 15:2). Uzza was not a Levite and the ark was being transported on a cart. Suppose Uzza’s family had said to the Levites, “Do you think you all are the only ones who can carry the ark?” In reality, the Levites were the only ones who could carry the ark and be pleasing to God.

Is there a group of people today who can be identified as the only ones who are pleasing to God? Absolutely, the only ones who are pleasing to God today are those who do God's will in God's way. Who are the only ones who are going to be saved? Those who are in His body, His church, of which there is only one (Ephesians 5:23; 1:22-23; 4:4). Who are the only ones going to heaven? Jesus answers: "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" (Matthew 7:21).

—B. J. Clarke

### ***Prayer Request***

**Tatum Gernado**, 3 year old daughter of J.D. & Tiffany Gernado, was taken to the Lubbock Hospital Saturday, January 9th with an abscess behind her tonsils. Tatum underwent surgery Tuesday, January 12th. Tatum is the granddaughter of Cindy & Eddie Beason.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Betty Branson** is doing better. She is progressing along and would hopefully be able to go home Thursday, January 14th.

**Earlene Poses** (Tony Marrs' mother) is in Midland Memorial Hospital. She is much better. Arlene was expected to go home early last week.

**Charles Simmons** (Susan Simmons husband) underwent a surgical procedure on his back in San Angelo Friday, January 8th. The surgery went well. His back will probably be sore for a while.

**Meta Troutz** (Kim Guynn's mother) was released from the hospital last week after spending some time in the hospital being treated for pneumonia. This was her third time to have pneumonia in two years.

### ***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; Julie Munoz; Laura Olivas; Earlene Poses; Connie Phelps; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Andrew Schwarz; Christa Bella Sellers; Brenda Simmons; Charles 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...**

Who brought a child back to life by lying on top of him and warming him?

### **Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...**

Gideon fed roast goat to an angel.

## **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.

## **Thank You**

Elder and I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful Christmas Basket. Everything was wonderful and we enjoyed the treats for days.

Sincerely,  
Elder & Glenna

## **Office News**

The "**New Mexico Children's Home**" will be back in Odessa Tuesday, March 1st, 2016 for a food pick up. They are requesting **tomato sauce and tomato paste**. If you can help out with this request it is greatly appreciated. Monetary donations also accepted.

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.**

## **Thoughts to Remember...**

Do not argue with a fool; the bystanders may not know which one is which.

The most difficult thing to open is a closed mind.

Some men grow; others swell.

### **January 17, 2016**

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Sermon  
Opening Prayer  
Scripture  
Second Prayer  
Closing Prayer  
Lord's Supper  
West...

#### **A.M.**

Larry May  
John Wood  
Allen Weakland  
Larry May  
Don Easlon  
Bill Tolbert  
Scot Straw  
  
Rudy Ochoa  
Dex Dennard  
Isaiah Armendarez  
Tom Sorenson  
Denny Wilson  
Josh Weakland

#### **P.M.**

Larry May  
Cody Wesson  
Allen Weakland  
Larry May  
Isaiah Armendarez  
Josh Wells  
Richard Siler  
  
Bill Brown  
Communion  
(In Library)

East...

**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**

*"Hallow the Priests"*  
(Exodus 29:1)

### **Sunday PM**

*"Slow to Wrath"*  
(James 1:19-20)

### **Our Records**

*Bible Class...* 76  
*Morning Worship...*147  
*Evening Worship...*69  
*Wednesday...*90  
*Contribution...*\$6,279.95



