

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Critics Question the Source of Christ's Power

Jesus Christ healed a demoniac who was blind and mute so that he could both speak and see. The King James Version translates the Greek word *kóphos* as “dumb”, meaning “mute.” Earlier in His ministry, at Capernaum, when Jesus cast out a devil that caused a man to be mute, the multitudes marveled because “It was never so seen in Israel” (Matthew 9:32-33). The multitudes wondered and glorified God when they witnessed Jesus allowing the mute to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk and the blind to see (cf. Matthew 15:30-31). Jesus used the fact that the blind could see, the lame could walk, the lepers cleansed, the deaf could hear and the resurrected dead as proof to the disciples of John that he was “he that should come” (Luke 7:20-22). The ability of Jesus to cast out devils should assure modern servants of Christ that He can help them overcome the woes that face them in their lives. Placing one’s faith in Jesus is both wise and comforting.

Matthew records that it was the Pharisees who accused Jesus of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24). Mark reports that the scribes which came down from Jerusalem claimed that Jesus “hath” Beelzebub. Both Matthew and Mark refer to Beelzebub as the “prince of the devils” (Mark 3:22). Jesus warned the twelve apostles that if they called the master of the house [Jesus] Beelzebub, even more so would critics call them of His household [the apostles] similar things (Matthew 10:25). Luke also records a time when some of the people witnessed Jesus casting out a devil so that a mute person could speak (Luke 11:14). Even though the people wondered, some of them claimed that Jesus cast out devils through Beelzebub the “chief of the devils” (Luke 11:15). The fact that Jesus performed miracles that His critics could not deny should shore up the faith of modern believers. If He did not cast out devils by the power of the Spirit of God, the only alternative is the power of Satan.

Notice that Jesus knew their innermost thoughts (Matthew 12:25; Luke 11:17). Jesus possesses the ability to know people’s thoughts, even when the critics of Jesus, like the scribes and the Pharisees, would accuse Him of blasphemy or of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub. Jesus knew the thoughts of the scribes and Pharisees and occasionally asked them if it was right to heal on the Sabbath (Luke 6:8-9). At least once, Jesus rebuked certain scribes for their thoughts and asked why they had evil thoughts (Matthew 9:4). The evil thoughts of His critics did not prevent Jesus from performing miracles. Although modern disciples of Jesus cannot know the thoughts of people, they should not allow criticism to prevent them from doing good in the name of Christ.

Included in Jesus’ rebuttal to His critics in the confirmation that Satan has an earthly kingdom (Matthew 12:26). Citizens of Satan’s kingdom “shall be cast out into outer darkness” (Matthew 8:12). Jesus told Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). We may surmise that if Christ’s kingdom is not of this world, then Satan’s kingdom is worldly. When we consider the unrighteous nature of those who do not inherit the kingdom of God, we discover that only those washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of Jesus and by the Spirit of God can escape the darkness of Satan’s kingdom (I Corinthians 6:9-11).

Jesus verifies that if He was casting out devils by the Spirit of God, then His kingdom has come upon them (Matthew 12:28). Those awaiting the coming of Christ’s kingdom should

read carefully the evidence that it existed then and that it remains today. Jesus' statement, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matthew 12:25; Mark 3:24) is undeniable proof that we cannot straddle the fence with one foot in Christ's kingdom and the other in the kingdom of Satan. Consider the source of Christ's power.

—Ted Burleson

Prayer Requests

Fred Dominguez is still in critical condition from the Covid 19 virus. He has been in an Abilene Hospital since first being diagnosed at the end of November. His wife, Nyla, has reported that some improvements have occurred. Fred is still in need of prayers.

Luke Wells, Josh Wells' brother, was admitted into the ER at Medical Center Hospital last Tuesday due to dehydration and pneumonia. He was treated and able to go home that night. Keep Luke in your prayers.

June Deavers (Mac Deaver's wife) has been fighting cancer for a while now. Mac is the Church of Christ preacher in Sheffield, TX. Please keep June in your prayers that she may be able to win her battle.

Concerns Update

Opal Hager (Christy's grandmother) was released from the hospital to go back to the Nursing Home after being treated for a fall she had two weeks ago. Keep Opal in your prayers.

Prayer List

Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Betty Brooks; Bill & Mary Brown; Abessa Chavez; Jon Cooper; Doug Dowell; Kim Drake; Andrew Durfee; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Irma Gomez; Paul Gunn; Opal Hager; Phil Halbert; Liz Leach; Mildred Lee; Betty Leeth; Miguel Lozano; Ishmael Lujan; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Jr. & Julie Munoz; Rudy Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Corina Rodriguez; David Ryan; Diane Salinas; Gary Schwulst; Tom Siler; Sheila Stanton; Linda Tate; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Janet Wesson; Charles Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Robertta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

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 ... (Multiple Choice)

Haggai prophesied that when God overthrew the gentile nations, He would make a signet ring of whom? (2) Haggai; (b) Joshua the priest or (c) Zerubbabel the governor.

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

The Apostles doctrine that taught the resurrection of the dead was especially offensive to the Sadducees because they did not believe in the resurrection.

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

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Ashley and Jacob Carson on the birth of their son, **Jasper Cal**. He was born at 8:02 a.m. on Thursday, January 7th, 2021. Jasper weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 1/4 inches long. His big sisters are Abigail and Esther.

Food for Thought...

Success in marriage is much more than finding the right person; it is being the right person.

God's delays are not God's denials.

Time to Die

Out of the dust of the ground did God cause human flesh to live (Genesis 2:7, 21-23; 3:20) and has determined that all human flesh must die. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return to the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return". (Genesis 3:20). The separation of the human spirit from the earthly body results in physical death (James 2:26). "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (Eccl. 12:7). This is a time that all people must face (Eccl. 3:2; 9:5; Hebrews 9:27). But exactly when the time to die will be, no one knows. Isaac said, "Behold now I am old, I know not the day of my death" (Genesis 27:2).

Yet the majority live life as if they have been assured that death is far in the distance. However, God warns, "Boast not thyself tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1). With every new day comes a new existence for many of eternal separation from the body and from this world. Time to live ceases while time to die comes. Undoubtedly, many face death without warning or spiritual preparation. This should not be the case for the Christian. We are exhorted and commanded to stay spiritually ready that we may receive the eternal inheritance (Matthew 24:42-25:13; I Peter 1:3-4). Therefore, whenever our time to die arrives, our faithfulness in Christ will be our confidence to face it with full assurance. We are going the way (death) of all the earth (I Kings 2:2), but not the way (sin) of all the earth (Proverbs 14:12). So consequently, the time to die is inconsequential. May it be next year, next month, or even later today; as death defeats our bodies, our souls will be sufficiently sustained (2 Cor. 5:1-9). For the faithful Christian, time "to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21, Eccl. 7:1).

—Richard Stevens III

Hawn Freeway
church of Christ

January 17, 2021

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Craig Wesson	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Doug Guynn	Gary Loving
Second Prayer	Oliver Hernandez	Cody Wesson
Closing Prayer	Bill Ryan	Larry May
Lords Supper		
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	Don Easlon	Tom Sorenson
		Communion (In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547— *Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 — *Pulpit:* Scot Straw 288-4533— *Table:* Tom Sorenson 638-9447 — *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 — *Collections:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

"Steps for Walking in Truth"
(2 John 1:4-6)

Sunday PM

“Faithfulness Means...”
(2 Thessalonians 1:1-12)

Our Records

Bible Class... 22
Morning Worship ...25
Evening Worship ...30
Wednesday...45
Contribution... \$2,842.00