

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Simply Christians

Many people are growing disenchanted with present religious forms which originated in the middle ages and have become meaningless. There is displeasure with denominational structures and dogma. Some, because of such views, have even decided that “Christianity” is not relevant today. We believe they have made that decision because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the Scriptures to be able to distinguish between the gospel of Christ and what men over the centuries have attempted to add to it.

If some of these things have troubled you and you have felt a yearning to return to the simple, uncomplicated religion of Christ, stripping away all the nonessential elements of religion and simply abiding by the truths of Christ, truths which transform the soul and bind it to God, let us suggest that it can and has been done.

The Bible, God’s word to man, presents Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He was foreshadowed and predicted in the Old Testament which God used to govern His people until Christ should come and establish the New (Jer. 31:31-33; Galatians 3:19, 23-24). That New Testament reveals the religion of Christ. By studying it we learn all there is to know of the way of Christ.

We learn that among the followers of Christ there existed no denominational organizations whatsoever. All began at a later time. In the New Testament we see people hearing the gospel and obeying the conditions of God’s grace. Being thus saved, they were added to the Lord’s people, the church (Acts 2:36-47). As the gospel spread, we find them assembling together in congregations in various localities. Each congregation was under its own elders (Acts 14:23) and no one else on earth. These elders could not make laws and be masters. They were given the responsibility of tending and caring for the congregation as shepherds would a flock (Acts 20:17-28; I Peter 5:1-3). The only headquarters those disciples knew was heaven, where their head, Jesus Christ, was and is (Ephesians 1:22-23).

Their worship was something in which to participate, not something to watch. On the first day of the week, for instance, they would eat the Lord’s Supper and hear preaching (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23-29), they would all sing (Ephesians 5:19), they would all pray with various ones leading (I Corinthians 14:15-16), and they would share in their mutual responsibilities by sharing their prosperity (I Corinthians 16:1-2). We find no contributions being collected on any other day than the first day of the week and no hierarchy taxing them or telling them how much to give. They had no organizations clamoring for their support. They gave as they individually purposed in their own hearts (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). In all this they were all necessarily involved for each saved person was a priest (Revelations 1:5-6). No one could perform his service or worship for another.

They lived godly lives. They cared for their poor. They taught others. They sent out preachers to teach others in far communities. With simplicity of faith and fervor there was no need of centralization. Without organized machinery, the gospel was preached to the whole of civilization in a short time (Colossians 1:23). These disciples’ of Christ were known as Christians (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; I Peter 4:16). They wore no sectarian names. Their religion was not materialistic or sensual. They did not seek to impress men with pious ceremony; rather, they sought to impress God with the only thing that has ever impressed Him—contrite obedience (2 Samuel 15:22). Their appeal was not social or recreational. They offered the gospel, for they knew it was God’s power to save (Romans 1:16), and any other appeal was beneath them.

Many sigh, “Oh, if only such could be today.” But it is! Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it neither necessity nor relevance but only a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored and their number is increasing. How many have taken such a stand? Who knows! They are related and connected only in Christ and not in some organization with machinery to keep a tally. We will not try to number them. What is important, though, is that a group of such people meets within minutes of where you live.

They are just Christians. They worship and serve God in the same way the early disciples did. Christ is their only creed and the Scriptures their only guide. They are not members of any human organization; they are simply a congregation or church of Christ. They, in turn, would like to share Christ with you and with the world.

You too can be just a Christian and serve God without belonging to any denomination, bound by denominational laws or obligations. If such freedom appeals to you, please contact us.

—New Providence Church of Christ—Clarksville, TN

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Dennis Dillon** who passed away Thursday, January 11th at his home. His funeral services were conducted at the Acres West Funeral Chapel Wednesday, January 17th. Dennis was the Pulpit Minister for the Parkview Church of Christ. Keep this family in your prayers.

Prayer Requests

Doris Weakland (Allen's mother) suffered a massive stroke Tuesday night, January 16th at her home in Michigan. Doris has been having mini strokes for a while. Her son, Danny, has made arrangements for his daughter to stay at his mom's house and give her the full-time care she needs. Keep Doris in your prayers.

Arthur Campos (Sylvia's husband) fell last week and broke five ribs and fractured one in two places while visiting his son in Austin. Arthur spent several days in the hospital in Round Rock. Their son drove them back home on Saturday, January 13th. Keep him in your prayers.

Prayers have been requested for **Elsie Bradford** (Loyce Driver's sister). She has been in poor health for a while and needs prayers.

Wanda Wheeler (Ora McAfee's niece) had a pocket of fluid removed from the stomach area Tuesday, January 16th. The surgery went well. She lives in Tahlequah, OK. Ora is requesting prayers for her.

Concerns Update

Janis Laminack was released from the hospital on Saturday. She is home and waiting to be scheduled for heart surgery in Dallas.

Jimmy Weaver was released from the hospital and is being referred to an Urologist for further treatment. Keep him in your prayers.

James Drake was able to go home from the hospital last week. He and Joyce both are still in need of prayers.

Montrella Ruffner, who had been in the hospital, is now back at Madison Medical Resort.

Lauria Troutz (Kim Guynn's sister-in-law) who was in the hospital last week with double pneumonia. She was also able to go home.

Prayer List

Mary Anchondo; Tom Bauer; Elsie Bradford; Bill & Mary Brown; Bill Butler; Harold Carrigan; David Castor; Sue Dahlen; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; Dana Erwin; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Glenda Hillis; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Kristen Limb; Eliseo Lopez; Glenna McCarty; Russ Montgomery; Tanya Nichols; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Russel Rosser; Elvia Ruckman; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Velma Tolbert; Lauria Troutz; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; Jimmy Weaver; Lisa Wells; Wanda Wheeler; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley; Charles Wood; John Wood; Jack Wright.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Janis Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; 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.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

As Paul traveled from Caesarea, after appealing to Caesar, on his way to Italy he passed three islands, Cyprus, Crete, and Melita. On which of these islands were they shipwrecked?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

King Saul went to see a witch.

Events

Watch *"In Search of the Lord's Way"* every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

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.

The Sheffield Church of Christ is hosting a *"Gospel Meeting"* with Weylan Deaver January 28-31st. We have posted their flyer on our bulletin board showing the times of the services.

Office News

The *"New Mexico Children's Home"* will be in Odessa for a food drive pickup on February 27th, 2018. They are requesting **(Juices (all kinds))**. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Thoughts to Remember...

When God measures a man He places the tape around the heart, not the head.

An egotist is always *me-deep* in conversation.

There will be no crown-bearers in Heaven who were not cross-bearers on earth.

January 21st, 2018	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jacob Carson	John Wood
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Trinidad Wood	Bill Brown
Second Prayer	Don Easlon	Rudy Ochoa
Closing Prayer	Tom Sorenson	Jr. Munoz
Lord's Supper		
West...	Tom Sorenson Trinidad Wood Larry May	Craig Wesson Communion (In Library)
East...	Charles Wood Josh Weakland Gary Loving	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson 561-5302 *Deacon*: John Wood 413-7444 *Pulpit*: Richard Siler 556-2150 *Table*: Craig Wesson 934-4633; *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties*: Chris Butler 362-7486; *Collections*: Chris Butler 362-7486

Sunday AM

"Redemption in the Church"
(Ephesians 5:22-27)

Sunday PM

"Broken Bones"
(Psalm 51:8)