

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Worship According to God's Pattern

Serious Bible students know that for a person's activity "in or out" of the worship service to be acceptable to God, he must do whatever he does according to God's stand for that activity (2 John 9).

Bible investigation reveals God's expectations for specific acts of worship and established patterns or forms by which those acts are to be carried out. To go beyond the teachings of Christ by attempting to offer an act of worship not authorized by Scripture has seldom been thought of by those of the Restoration Movement. On the few occasions when such thoughts have been expressed, they were soundly defeated with a demand for a "thus saith the Lord." Thus, only five acts of worship all allowed in the worship services of the churches of Christ: prayer, teaching, singing, giving and communion (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 5:19; I Corinthians 16:1; Matthew 26:26; I Corinthians 11:17).

The intent of this article is to warn against the failure to have a "thus saith the Lord" for the pattern used in the carrying out of those authorized acts of worship. It is vital that Christians observe the Lord's Supper. He commanded such in Matthew 26:26, and other passages. It is equally important that the would-be worshipper observe the Lord's Supper with the proper attitude and proper objects. Only unleavened bread and fruit of the vine have been authorized by God. Coke and potato chips will not suffice regardless of one's attitude. A "thus saith the Lord" settles the question as noted in Matthew 26:26.

Likewise, prayer has a pattern. Man is to address God through the name of Christ (Colossians 3:17) - not through God's name, not in man's name—in the name of Christ. It matters not if man prays publicly or privately, he must follow the pattern of prayers.

Teaching also has a form (Romans 6:17). Man is not permitted to teach anything he chooses in the name of Christ. Neither is he allowed to use dishonest means in attempts to teach the doctrines of Christ (Colossians 3:17).

The offering of gifts is discussed by God in 2 Corinthians 9 and 1 Corinthians 16. The intent, the amount, the method is discussed, Man has not been left to his own choosing in this matter. Giving according to the pattern of God is vital—not by raffles; not a business; not taxation, but freewill giving.

The Bible gives instructions for singing in worship. Again, a pattern is to be followed (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Hebrews 13:15; James 5:13; Acts 16:25). Every passage demands singing—not singing and playing, or playing instead of singing. It is always singing.

In every case, public or private, the pattern is to be followed. Please note that the pattern also includes such things as singles and multiples participating in these acts of worship.

Examples of prayer include one praying to God alone (John 17); multiples praying to God with one leading the prayer (I Corinthians 14). Yet, never do we find multiples orally praying as multiples!

Teaching is found in the form of one teaching another (Acts 8), and one teaching multiples (Acts 2). Never do we find multiples teaching multiples at the same time. Each is to speak in turn (1 Corinthians 14).

Giving is always within the pattern. Each gives as he has prospered (1 Corinthians 11).

Singing has its pattern—the individual sings to God to praise His name and rejoice (James

5:13); multiples sing to God (Ephesians 5:9) and in the process teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16). Nowhere in Scripture is there permission for one to sing to multiples or for multiples to sing to multiples in the worship service of our Lord. Thus, solos and group singing are not according to the pattern of God.

—David Holland

Placed Membership

Catherine Eastwood came forward last Sunday morning asking forgiveness for hurtful words she has spoken to others; also, she asked for prayers and encouragement to help her be the best mother, wife and sister that she can be. Catherine has placed her membership with us here at Eisenhower and desires to work under the guidance of our elders.

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Fred Dominguez**. He was the former preacher at the Church of Christ in Pecos. Fred lost his battle with the Covid 19 virus last Sunday, January 17th, in a hospital in Abilene. He had been hospitalized since the latter part of November. Keep Nyla and her family in your prayers during this sad time.

Concerns Update

Diane Salinas, a niece of Sylvia Campos, who was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma last year is not doing well even after having a T-Cell Transplant surgery the first of October. The surgery did not work. Diane left for MD. Anderson last Monday to undergo five more radiation treatments and chemo in pill form. Diane needs our prayers that something will start working for her and that she can beat this battle.

Vanessa Machuca, Sylvia Campos' daughter, was diagnosed with shingles the end of November that has gotten close to her eye and is causing some vision problems. Prayers are requested for Vanessa to receive the right treatment and that she gets well soon.

Prayer List

Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Betty Brooks; Bill & Mary Brown; Abessa Chavez; Jon Cooper; June Deavers; 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; Luke Wells; 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)

Who is the author of Psalm 127, which begins, "Unless the Lord builds the house; they labor in vain who build it"? (a) David; (b) Lemuel; or (c) Solomon.

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

Haggai prophesied that when God overthrew the gentile nations, He would make a signet ring of Zerubbabel, the Governor. (Haggai 2:22-23)

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

Food for Thought...

Don't think in terms of forever; think of now and forever well take care of itself.

Office News

We will have a Potluck Luncheon on January 31st in the annex. Evening service in Auditorium.

Breaking the Sin Cycle

Sin is dangerous, destructive and deadly—and as addictive as any drug! What's more, Satan comes in disguise. A look at Genesis 3 reveals Satan's methodology. The serpent was crafty, cunning, subtle....and smooth! Nothing in his approach alarmed Eve. He didn't tell her that he came to destroy her life and rupture her relationship with God. He wanted a religious dialog: "Did God really say...?"

What can we do to break the sin cycle and live a life of freedom? How can we overcome?

By Controlling Our Thoughts. James reminds us that we are tempted by our own lust (James 1:15). Solomon tells us that we become what we think (Proverbs 23:7). Sin is not a disease or a genetic defect. Sin is a choice we make. Paul gives us the secret: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

By Controlling Our Environment. Many temptations result from our surroundings. We must control our environment: companions, books, music, movies, videos, etc.

By Prayer. Jesus taught us to pray that we might not be led into temptation (Matthew 6:13). God has power to deliver!

By Losing Ourselves in God's Work. We must choose whom we will serve—daily (Joshua 24:15). We must expel evil from our lives and then replace it with God's goodness.

"Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

—Randall Caselman

January 24, 2021

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Jaxon Straw
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Richard Siler	John Wood
Second Prayer	Josh Weakland	Trinidad Wood
Closing Prayer	Jaxon Straw	Craig Wesson

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading: Cody Wesson

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

“Don’t Abandon Truth”
(II John 1:7-11)

Sunday PM

“Changed Destiny”
(I Thessalonians 5:1-11)

Our Records

Bible Class... 54
Morning Worship ...NC
Evening Worship ...NC
Wednesday...50
Contribution... \$5,857.00