

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Beginning of the Church of Christ

There are some scholars and preachers within the church who are confused about the date of the establishment of the church. They teach that the church of Christ rose out of the Restoration Movement of the late 1700's and early 1800's. To hear them tell it, the church of Christ did not exist prior to this time period. In a tract entitled, "What You Can Expect When You Visit the Church of Christ," Joe R. Barnett begins his discussion with "a brief description of our background." He writes: "We are part of "The Restoration Movement." In the book, *Decades of Destiny*, edited by Lindy Adams and Scott LaMascus, we read the following on page 21:

In New England, Elias Smith and Abner Jones rejected the Calvinism of their Baptist heritage and began establishing Christian churches in the early 1800's. A few years later in Tennessee, a group of Presbyterians, led by Finis Ewing, Samuel King and Samuel McAdaw, also rejected Calvinism and formed the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. It would be three other Presbyterians who would lead in forming the movement that produced the Churches of Christ.

The word that troubles us in the above quote is the word "produced." Did three Presbyterians form a movement that produced the churches of Christ? Some seem to think so.

The reality is that the church of Christ was produced, established, and built on the earth in the first century. The precise date of its establishment is the first Pentecost following our Lord's resurrection. Peter and the other apostles preached the Gospel for the first time on that day (Acts 2:14-22). Those who gladly received their words were baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38-41). At that point they were saved (Mark 16:16). The Lord added these saved ones to the church. ***"Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"*** (Acts 2:47).

To which church were these individuals added? Not a single denomination existed at the time. Jesus, however, had promised to build "His" church. At Caesarea, Philippi, He said: ***"And I say also unto thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"*** (Matthew 16:18). Surely, this was the church to which the saved on Pentecost were added. Romans 16:16 confirms this to be the case. Paul wrote: ***"Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."*** If the church of Christ existed in the first century, it is impossible for three Presbyterians to have produced it in the 1800's.

Those who believe that the church of Christ is a development of the Restoration Movement also fail to understand the "seed" principle with regard to the kingdom. Plants exist in different forms. One of these forms is seed. Corn, cotton, beans, squash, peas, okra and tomatoes begin each farming season as seed. When these seeds are planted in the ground and are properly cared for, they bring forth fruit after their kind. Tomato seeds produce tomatoes. Cotton seeds produce cotton. As long as the seeds exist, the produce exists. This principle holds true in the spiritual realm also. In Luke 8:11, ***Jesus said: "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God."*** God's soil; that is, the hearts of mankind. In good soil, its fruit is produced (Luke 8:15). In the first century, the seed of God's Word produced Christians, members of the church of Christ. If that seed is planted today, it will produce exactly the same thing. It is important to understand that as long as the seed exists, the church also exists in seed form. Jesus declared: ***"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"*** (Matthew 24:35). If Jesus' words are true, then the church has and always will, exist, at least in seed form. Thus, the men of the Restoration Movement did not "produce" the church of Christ. They merely planted the incorruptible seed of God's Word into the hearts of honest hearers and the church grew from its seed form into its mature state. There are far too many within the churches of Christ that view the church of Christ as a denomination among many. They see it as the product of man's efforts. They do not see it as the one and only body of Christ

(Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18). They fail to see it as the wisdom of God that existed in God's mind from eternity (Eph. 3:8-11). We wonder if they believe that the church of Christ is the divine institution that was purchased by the precious blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). Dear readers, the church of Christ is not of man-made origin. It is not the result of the studies of good men of the 18th and 19th centuries. The church of Christ is a divine institution that was established on earth on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2!
—Victor M. Eskew

Response

On Wednesday, January 16th, **Clint Titlow** expressed his desire to make himself right with God and his brothers and sisters here at Eisenhower. He confessed sin and unfaithfulness and desires to become a stronger and more faithful servant for the Lord. Continue to keep Clint in your prayers.

Prayer Request

Mildred Lee's sister and brother-in-law had a head on collision in NC on January 14th. Her sister, **Francis Averette** has 7 broken ribs, a broken leg, slashes in her liver and a cracked vertebra. However, her husband, **Hank**, was able to go home on the 17th. They are in need of prayers.

Concerns Update

Janet Wesson (Jeff's mother) received a good report on the biopsy that was done on the 15th. No cancer was found; she has an abscess in her lung and is on prescribed medication for it.

Nina Wright is still in ICU#543 at Midland Memorial Hospital suffering with the flu and COPD. There has been no change in her condition. Nina is still hooked up to a ventilator and is not able to get off it. Nina is Loyce Driver's niece. She is in need of prayers.

Wayne Gunn (Paul Gunn's son) was able to go home from the hospital. They were able to stabilize his blood sugar. Please keep him on your prayers list.

Prayer List

Brian Basaldua; Dennis Betts; Bill Brown; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; Dana Erwin; Densell Fambro; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Wayne Gunn; Winford Hambright; Roberta Hamil; Letha Hooper; Jennifer Jones; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Sharion Price; Hector Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Janelle Shirley; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Verla Snyder; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; Marilyn Upshaw and Lester Whisenant.

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

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

On the first day of the week there came one of the women followers of Jesus to the garden where he was laid away. Seeing the tomb empty, she ran to Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher and we know not where they have laid him." Who is speaking?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

Esau sold his birthright (the rights as the eldest)

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.

Sheffield church of Christ is hosting a *“Gospel Meeting”* which starts today (January 27th) and goes through Wednesday (January 30th) with Chris Moore as guest speaker. See our BB.

Preaching 101: Preaching for “Would Be” Preachers (2 Timothy 2:2). Saturday, February 9th is Part 3 of this series presented by Mike Vestal at the Ackerly Church of Christ. The subject will be *“Preparing to Deliver the Sermon”*. Time: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Lunch provided). Please set this time aside to attend.

Singing Seminar

Myron Bruce will be here to conduct a *“Singing Seminar”* on April 6th and 7th. Please plan to attend and learn more about how we can improve our singing in our worship unto the Lord.

Office News

The *“New Mexico Children’s Home”* will be here Tuesday, March 5th for a food pick up. They are requesting **Aluminum Foil**. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Wednesday, January 30th, is our *“Fifth Wednesday Singing and Praise Service”* night.

In Filling

The Scriptures often exhort us to be filled with various godly virtues—which means what? How do we know if we are *“full of goodness”*? (Rom. 15:14) For example:

Think a moment about a water-saturated sponge. If we push down with our finger even slightly, water runs out onto the table. We immediately know what fills the interior pockets of the sponge.

The same is true of us. We can tell what fills our inside by what comes out under pressure.

—Bulletin Digest

January 27th, 2019	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Cody Wesson	John Wood
Second Prayer	Charles Wood	Doug Guynn
Closing Prayer	Scot Straw	Richard Siler
Lord's Supper		
(Scripture Reading)	<u>Trinidad Wood</u>	
West...	Bill Brown	Tom Sorenson
	Rudy Ochoa	Communion
	Gary Loving	(In Library)
East...	Jr. Munoz	
	David Ryan	
	Jackie Perkins	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson - 556-5547 *Deacon*; Richard Siler 556-2151 *Pulpit*; Richard Siler 556-2151 *Table*; Tom Sorenson 638-9447— *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Sermons*; Dex Dennard 296-1582 *Collections*; Dex Dennard

Sunday AM

"Dig Your Well"

(Genesis 26:15-18)

Sunday PM

"What Will You Do With Jesus?"

(Matthew 27:15-22)

Our Records

Bible Class... 72

Morning Worship...113

Evening Worship...62

Wednesday...81

Contribution...\$4,589.35