

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Doctrinal Preaching (Part 1)

The author of a recognized textbook on speechmaking tenders some advice on pulpit speaking, pointing out that “purely doctrinal sermons are not much desired in this age, for most people are impatient with quibbling of creed.” It is doubtful that he would know a Gospel sermon if he heard one, yet he feels that his position as the authority on secular speaking qualifies him to tell preachers not only how the sermon should be delivered, but also what the content of the sermon should be. Preachers should not speak on doctrine, because people in this advanced (?) age do not desire that type of sermon, is his advice.

The eminent authority makes two blunders. First he ventures into a field where he is not qualified, and second, he makes the mistake of telling preachers that the content of their sermons should be what the people desire instead of what the Lord commands. Of course, he would hardly be expected to know—and probably would not care if he did know—that Paul said that the preacher who tried to please men (that is, preach the type of sermons which are desired in this age) could not be the servant of Christ. Perhaps, his admonition was intended primarily for denominational preachers who are in the business as men-pleasers, and think that much of the advice in the New Testament is not modernistic enough for a streamlined, twentieth century sermon. To them the doctor’s advice may be a pearl of great price, but to a Gospel preacher it is abominable.

It would be difficult to think of anything more ridiculous than the doctor’s suggestion. He can tell people how to make the Halls of Congress reverberate with gems of political oratory, but he needs a few lessons on the fundamentals of the Gospel before he starts telling us what to include and exclude in our sermons. A man may be without an equal in telling us how to compose and deliver a political speech or a speech given purely for entertainment, and yet be a dismal failure when it comes to telling us how to preach the Gospel.

What about doctrinal preaching? Every Gospel preacher must choose between what is desired in this age and the kind of preaching that the Bible says for us to do. The early Christians continued in the apostles’ doctrine (Acts 2:42). It is obvious that the apostles must have preached doctrine. People obey a form of doctrine in becoming children of righteousness (Romans 6:17). How can preaching save people, unless it presents the doctrine, and shows people how to obey “that form of doctrine?” (I Timothy 1:3). This implies that there is a doctrine to be preached. Timothy was told to give attendance to doctrine (I Timothy 4:13-16). Maybe, Paul and others knew that in this age people would not desire doctrine, and hence Gospel preachers would have to give it a little emphasis. Paul must have had something like that in mind when he told Timothy to preach with doctrine, for the time would come when people would not endure—would not desire sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:2-3). Those who have so much free information on how to preach

ought to get together with Paul, or show us that Paul was wrong. Paul said for us to preach doctrine, because people would not desire it; man tells us to omit doctrine when it is not desired. One of the two has given the wrong advice, and personally I think that Paul is not the one.

—Frank Van Dyke

### **Sympathy**

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Dale Hunt**, uncle of Jeff Wesson. Dale passed from this life Saturday, January 24th, 2015 in El Campo, TX. His services were held there Wednesday, January 28th. Keep this family in your prayer.

### **Prayer Request**

**Burt Groves** is in room #433 at Medical Center Hospital with a problem with his blood. He was admitted Sunday afternoon, January 25th. They are trying to get his blood regulated. Burt takes Warfarin which is a blood thinner which may have caused his problem.

### **Concerns Update**

**Ben Ellison's** surgery on Monday, January 26th went well. They were able to remove the rest of his kidney stones.

**Adah Jewell-Bettes Dennard** was released from the hospital and taken to Buena Vida Nursing Home Monday, January 26th. She is registered as Adah Bettes at the Nursing Home. Jewell is in Room 405A.

**Anna Groves** was moved to Oceans which is on 1788 and Business Highway 80 (the west side of Midland). At this time we do not know if this is a temporary or permanent move for Anna.

**Marilyn Upshaw** was able to go home from the hospital Tuesday morning, January 27th.

### **Prayer List**

Jerry Anderson; Elaine Armentrout; Cody & Kala Ausbrook; Velma Bettes; Susan Bosse; Elsie Bradford; Beth Carrell; Neva Carrigan; Don & Hazel Cavanaugh; Ruby Davis; Dayton Dennard; Jewell Bettes-Dennard; Doug Dowell; James Drake; Ben Ellison; Jake & Summer Finley; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Burt & Anna Groves; Winford & Jean Hambright; Linda Horton; Lon Howard; Wyatt Kody; Susan Lee; Shannon McAfee; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Caleista Millican; Loy Mitchell; Juan & Estella Morelez; Allison & Nathan Moyers; Judy Phillips; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Carmen Settle; Nancy Slife; Marilyn Upshaw; George & Jurlean Warren; Bré elle Watts; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; Russell Wilson; Wilene Wright

### **Shut-Ins**

Mildred Bell; Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Kathy Marshall, Janelle Shirley, Lester Whisenant.

### **Events**

The **New Mexico Children's Home** will be in Odessa March 3rd for a food drive. They are requesting Nestle's Quik and Kool Aid. Also, there are coin cans on the table in the east foyer if you would like to save your change for them. The coin cans and food will be picked up at the same time. Monetary donations are also welcomed.

### **Youth**

#### **Bible Quiz Question...**

To whom was the Lord speaking when he said, "Ye are of your father the devil".

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

The days of unleavened bread celebrated the Passover.

### **FYI**

Denny Wilson is hosting a weekly radio program called "**Take Aim**" at 6:30 each Tuesday night. Tune your radio program to the [gospelradionetwork.org](http://gospelradionetwork.org). Feel free to please pick up a business card on the youth table in the foyer.

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.

### Upcoming Wednesday Night Devotional Speakers

February 4th—Denny Wilson  
11th—Josh Wells  
18th—Bill Brown  
25th—Doug Guynn

February  
February  
February

### **Baby Shower**

You are invited to a "come and go" baby shower for **Stacy (Siler) Register** and her baby girl Saturday, February 7, 2015 between 2-4 pm at the home of Holly Wesson (around back) Stacy is requesting diapers and gift cards.

### **Office News**

**Odessa Christian School** has a fifth grade teaching position open. Interested applicants should contact the school at 362-6311.

Remember to "**Save the Date**" May 16th, 2015. This is the day that Craig Wesson and Kallie Culp will be united in Holy Matrimony. An invitation will follow.

Please take a look at the "**Edifier Prayer List**" and if you have a family member or a close friend that can be removed, please let the office know.

### **Something to Think About**

He who is not grateful for what he does have will not be happy with the things that he desires to have.

He who is ungrateful in little will also be ungrateful in much! If we are not thankful to God for the blessings He bestows, what reason is there to expect Him to bestow additional blessings. If the blessings for which we are unthankful were suddenly removed then what would our lives really be like? "Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayers and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6)

May your blessings be many, and may your burdens be few on this day.

#### **February 1, 2015**

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

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

Jeff Wesson  
John Carroll  
Allen Weakland  
Jeff Wesson  
Bill Ryan  
Tony Marrs  
Charles Wood

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

Jeff Wesson  
Cody Wesson  
Allen Weakland  
Jeff Wesson  
Isaiah Armendarez  
Larry May  
Trinidad Wood

West...

Josh Wells  
Craig Wesson  
Bill Tolbert

Jacob Carson  
Communion  
(In Library)

East...

Cody Wesson  
John Wood  
Dylan Straw

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 561-5302 *Deacon:* Josh Wells 770-6753 *Pulpit:* Chris Butler 362-7486  
*Table:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties:* Tom Sorenson 631-  
2518 *Contributions:* Tom Sorenson 631-2518

**Sunday AM”**

*“Children of God”*  
*(1 John 3:1-3)*

**Sunday PM**

*“Jesus & the Tax Collector”*  
*(Mark 2:13-17)*

**Our Records**

*Bible Class...63*  
*Morning Worship...125*  
*Evening Worship...76*  
*Wednesday...64*  
*Contribution...\$5,092.77*

