

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Satan's Guide to Church Growth

We know the Lord wants His church to grow and increase. The book of Acts sets forth the beginning of the New Testament church. This inspired church history shows the phenomenal growth of the body of Christ. It began with about 3,000 people obeying the gospel. ***“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”*** (Acts 2:41). In Acts 4:4, the size of the church had increased to 5,000 men, excluding the women and children. The growth spread beyond the boundaries of Judah. Men and women obeyed the gospel in Samaria, in heathen lands and in the imperial city of Rome. Yes, the Lord longs for the growth of His body.

Some have become so obsessed with church growth that they have forsaken the Lord's way and have begun to follow Satan's guide to church growth. First, they try to make the way easy for people. One church in Jonesboro asked individuals to come to their services, which is proper. The inference, however, was made that they could sneak in and out without being noticed. All the “minister” wanted was for them to show up. Jesus didn't preach an easy message. In fact, He exhorted people to enter in at the “strait gate” (Matthew 7:13-14). This gate involves struggle, hardship and difficulty. The Master's life was a life of struggle, sacrifice and death. His followers should expect nothing less (Matthew 10:24-25).

The second element involved in Satan's guide for church growth is entertainment. In “The Sun,” an article was run about a musical drama being performed at the Nettleton Baptist church. John Waters is quoted as saying: “The people have really enjoyed it.” The article also states: “Attendance has also increased during the past few weeks.” This proves our point. Entertainment and church growth go hand-in-hand today. Musicals, dramas and concerts were not the methods used by the first century evangelists to increase church attendance. It was done by the simple preaching of the gospel of Christ. Some will laugh at this method. Perhaps, they need to study again Paul's words to the church at Corinth. ***“...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe”*** (I Corinthians 1:21).

The third method Satan uses to grow churches today involves *eating*. Let us emphasize that we are not opposed to brethren eating together. The first century church ate with each other (Acts 2:46). Some, however, have taken eating too far. Every event involves food and drink. Some churches have made snacking an essential part of Bible Class and worship. There are churches that have put coffee shops in the foyer of the church building. The kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking. Some in Jesus' day would come as long as the loaves were present. Jesus chastised them for desiring only the food (John 6:26). He then said: ***“Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give you: for him hath God the Father sealed”*** (John 6:27).

Satan's methods of church growth appeal to the carnal, fleshly side of man. They do not develop and nourish the inner man. Satan rejoices when his methods are used. He knows that church leaders and many church members are deceived by the increase in numbers. He also knows that there is no depth, no conviction, no lasting love for spiritual things in those who have been reached with these things. Our prayer is that churches will forsake Satan's method of church growth. We need to return to the simple method of sowing the incorruptible

Word of God into the hearts of men and women, allowing God to give the increased (Luke 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

—Victor M. Eskew

Prayer Request

Maria Anaya went to the ER a couple of weeks ago because she didn't feel well. She had suffered a heart attack and had to undergo an emergency surgery to have a stent put in. The surgery went well and Maria is doing okay.

Mildred Lee is scheduled to have a skin cancer removed on Thursday, March 18th.

Wanda Perkins had an eye procedure done on Friday, March 5th in Midland.

Delores Gresham from Andrews has requested prayers for her family especially Maddi and her unborn child. Evidently, she is having problems with her pregnancy. Keep Maddi and her baby in your prayers.

Concerns Update

Doug Guynn met with the doctor from Ft. Worth last Tuesday. An appointment is scheduled for him to have a detailed MRI done in Ft. Worth this week. Doug was put on a Diuretic for swelling. He still needs prayers.

Charlene McFatter (Terresia Weaver's mother) is home and on oxygen. Terresia said her mom is in a lot of pain and is only taking Extra Strength Tylenol. She wants us to continue to keep her in our prayers.

Tim Garvin (Wilene Wright's son-in-law) is off the ventilator; breathing on his own. However, he is still on oxygen, feeding tube and has a trach in. Tim is waiting to go to rehab in Austin. So far, his vital signs are all stable. Keep Tim in your prayers.

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; Tim Garvin; Hattie Gilmore; Irma Gomez; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Opal Hager; Phil Halbert; Liz Leach; Mildred Lee; Betty Leeth; Miguel Lozano; Vanessa Machuca; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Rudy Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Corina Rodriguez; David Ryan; Diane Salinas; Gary Schwulst; Bill Tate; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Luke Wells; Janet Wesson; Carolyn Wilkerson; Charles Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

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

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... "Fill in the blanks"

The woman with the flow of blood came up to Jesus "and touched the ____ of His_____."

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

"False" They said Lazarus was sick. (John 11:3)

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

Office News

Our second "**Singing Workshop**" with Myron Bruce is scheduled for April 24-25. Please set aside time to attend this workshop.

Principles of Growth

The following are ways we can grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

1. Be Optimistic. We should be too busy to expect failures for we know we can do all things through Him. Philippians 4:13.
2. Be People Oriented. Men think that success comes with organizing some program. We must focus on people, not programs. (Romans 10:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:2).
3. Recognize the Limit of Your Duty. Goal setting is very important for a congregation. Look ahead with a realistic goal in mind.
4. Strive to Excel. Elders, deacons, evangelists, teachers and all disciples must resolve to be the very best. Satisfaction stifles improvement and equals spiritual death. (2 Peter 1:5-11).
5. Distinguish Christianity as a Life, not a Ceremony. Christians are the Church. We do not merely attend church. (Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-25).
6. Honestly Deal with Flaws. Do not pin the sacred cow of perfectionism on the church. The church consists of humans and humans have flaws. Prospects are turned off when they cannot reconcile what they observe in us and what they hear us preaching. (Luke 18:9-14).
7. Encourage Everyone to Talk Up the Church. Speak often of your respect for the elders, how you appreciate the deacons, the knowledge gained from the sermons, and the love shown by the church.
8. Be Determined to Grow. Do not accept, "We can't do that here." The naysayers would have everyone's faith to be as weak as their own. (Philippians 4:13).
9. Address the Needs of All Ages. Do not neglect either the young or the old. All have spiritual needs. (Philippians 1:1-4).
10. Do Not Over-Organize. Leadership and organization are necessary, but spiritual bureaucracy is worse than political red tape. Both can and do strangle the ability to reach goals.
11. Demand a Strong Pulpit. Strong bible-oriented preaching that is presented in an understandable fashion, is absolutely necessary. (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

Glen Young

March 07, 2021

A.M.

P.M.

Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Craig Wesson	Jaxon Straw
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Oliver Hernandez	Bill Ryan
Second Prayer	Jacob Carson	Larry May
Closing Prayer	Don Easlon	Charles Wood
Lords Supper		John Wood
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	Scot Straw	Communion (In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209 – *Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834 – *Pulpit:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 – *Table:* John Wood 413-7444– *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990– *Recording Sermons:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 – *Collections:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“How to Change Our Circumstances”

(Ruth 3:1-18)

Sunday PM

“Assurance”

(2 Thessalonians 3:16-18)

Our Records

Bible Class – 49

Morning Worship 78

Evening Worship 42

Wednesday... 53

Contribution... \$4,346.65