

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Why the Church is Dying

As a self-supporting preacher of the Gospel, I have worked for the past twenty-five years as a registered nurse. In the course of those years, I have been at the bedside of untold numbers of people as they passed from this life due to various causes. As each one died the physical death, I felt a sense of sadness and sorrow, but none of those deaths bothered me as much as what I am seeing happen in the Lord's church. I am seeing congregations of the Lord's church die spiritually. Reasons for this spiritual death are many, but we will look at only a few.

The Lord's church is dying because it is not being fed. Just as we need the right kind of food for this physical body to grow and be healthy, so must the church have the right food. That food is the Word of God. One of the entreaties given to the elders in Acts 20:28 was to "feed the flock." What are they to feed the flock? According to Peter, we are to be fed and desire the "sincere milk of the word," that we might grow in a knowledge of the Lord (I Peter 2:2). Paul told the young man Timothy to "preach the word," and went on to tell him to use this Word to "reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering." When the Word is being preached from the pulpit, in our classrooms and from house to house, we do not have to worry about the church dying because this spiritual food will sustain us. Brethren, let us stop starving the church to death and feed it!

The church is dying because it is being poisoned. We are being poisoned by men who would pervert the Gospel. Paul warned against those who would pervert the Gospel of Christ and told the church at Galatia that anyone who would preach any other Gospel would be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9). We have men now among us preaching their "damnable heresies," and many brethren are being led away from the truth. John warned us in 2 John 9-11 not to have anything to do with these men, because if we do, we are just as guilty of poisoning the church as they are. Brethren, false teachers are deadly to the church!

The church is dying because it is being neglected. The church is being neglected by elders who are instructed to "take heed unto the flock" (Acts 20:28). If an eldership is paying attention as they should, then false doctrine, worldly practices and sin that would destroy the church will be kept out. The church is also being neglected by many of its members. We have members who pay no attention to Hebrews 10:25, but willfully forsake the assembly and think nothing of it. These members put more emphasis on playing and their own entertainment than they do worshipping God, little realizing that their behavior is causing the church to die.

The church is dying because its mission has been changed. The mission of the church has been and will always be to teach the Gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16); to edify or build the brethren up spiritually (I Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Romans 14:19) and benevolence or the helping of those in need (Galatians 6:10; Matthew 25:36-46). Today, though, the emphasis has been placed more on entertainment and playing and pleasing ourselves, than on the actual work of the church. That is why the church is dying. Brethren, the church is dying a little more each day, congregation by congregation, individual by individual. What can we do to turn it around: Paul told us in 1 Corinthians 15:58;

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, un-moveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Brethren, the church, the body of Christ, is worth saving, so let us work to that end.

—Danny L. Box

Prayer Request

Jonathan Garcia (nephew of one of Christy’s co-workers) has a tumor on his brain. Jonathan is eight years old and the family has requested a part in our prayers. Please keep this little boy in your daily prayers that the tumor can be safely removed so that he can return to a normal lifestyle.

Mildred Lee is scheduled to have a skin cancer removed on March 18th. Please keep her in your prayers that all goes well with this procedure.

Katie Hembree (Devida’s granddaughter’s great-grandmother) was taken to the ER at MCH on March 3rd with congestive heart failure. They had to drain fluid away from her heart. Katie also has COPD. She will have rehab at Madison Medical Resort. She is in need of prayers.

Concerns Update

Doug Guynn is being scheduled to go to Scot and White in Ft. Worth to have a detailed MRI on his liver. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

LaVerne Couch received good results from her surgical procedure she had done recently. No cancer was found. Prayers were answered.

Wanda Perkins had a successful eye surgery on the 5th in Midland. Everything went well.

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; Charlene McFatter; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Rudy Ochoa; Wanda Perkins; 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

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

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... Fill in the Blanks

Zechariah predicted a time when “Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without _____ For I, says the Lord, ‘will be a _____ of fire all around her”

Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer ...

The woman with the flow of blood came up to Jesus “and touched the hem of His garment” (Matthew 9:20)

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.

“**Singing & Prayer Service**” Wednesday, March 31st. Service starts at 7:00 p.m.

Food for Thought...

Hatred can be an acid that does more damage to the vessel in which it is stored than to the object on which it is poured.

Church Growth

Much has been written recently concerning church growth. This is because the church of our Lord has not grown as rapidly as it did in times past. This disturbs many, and it should! The church grew rapidly in the first century (Acts 2:41-47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7). It grew rapidly during the early years of the restoration movement in the nineteenth century. It grew rapidly following World War II and up through the 1960's. However, during the last fifty years there has been a widespread loss of distinctiveness in the doctrine and practice of the churches of Christ. With this loss of distinctiveness has come a decrease in the rate of growth.

Much of that written on church growth misses the mark as to what will cause the church to grow as it did in times past. Emphasis is often placed on meeting the temporal needs of men—the social, emotional and entertainment needs—above the spiritual needs—salvation from sin and growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Also, emphasis is placed on developing personal relationships rather than convicting men of sin and converting them to Christ. There is a great desire in many to be accepted by the non-religious and sectarian-religious world, thinking this will bring about church growth.

Whenever the church has grown rapidly, it has also made many enemies. This is inevitable. When the distinctive Gospel of Christ is preached, it will soften the hearts of some unto obedience and harden the hearts of others unto rebellion. We cannot seek to be acceptable to all men and at the same time seek to spread the Gospel. Jesus warned, ***“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets”*** (Luke 6:26). When we individually, as Christians and collectively as the church, proclaim the distinctive Gospel of Christ, we will make converts and we will make enemies! Let us seek to meet the deepest needs of men by teaching them the Gospel of Christ. When we do, the church will grow as it did in times past.

—Jack L. Grimes

March 07, 2021

A.M.

P.M.

Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Oliver Hernandez
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Jackie Perkins	Richard Siler
Second Prayer	Josh Weakland	Craig Wesson
Closing Prayer	Jr. Munoz	Jaxon Straw
Lords Supper		John Wood
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	Jeff Wesson	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

“Heart of Adversity”
(Ruth 1:1-5)

Sunday PM

“Church Discipline”

(II Thessalonians 3:6-15)

Our Records

Bible Class – 50

Morning Worship 68

Evening Worship 36

Wednesday... 54

Contribution... \$4,440.00