

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Weak, foolish, and Afraid

It is hard to miss the tone of 2 Corinthians, a letter full of self-disclosure and self-defense and intimately written. Paul's apostleship had been questioned and his work with the Corinthians undermined. But he was willing to "spend and be spent" for them (2 Corinthians 12:15). A man who has given so much for the cause of Christ chose not to boast, but to humble himself in an effort to persuade and encourage those brethren in their spiritual progress.

WEAKNESS (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

Due to the "surpassing greatness of the revelations (2 Corinthians 12:7) Paul had received (2 Corinthians 12:1-6), he was given a "thorn in the flesh." It is useless to speculate about what this specific "thorn" was — poor eyesight, physical pain from being stoned at Lystra, some unspecified temptation, etc. Perhaps it is better for us, not knowing exactly what it was, since many of us as Christians may have to wrestle a thorn in our own flesh. It is interesting to note how Paul describes it: "humbling" (to keep me from exalting myself), "Satanic" (a messenger of Satan), "tormenting," "persistent" (2 Corinthians 12:8), "perfecting" (2 Corinthians 12:9) and "empowering" (2 Corinthians 12:10). Is there some physical, mental, emotional or spiritual struggle in your life that you might describe in some or all of these ways? Perhaps we are quick to identify the negative aspects, but what about the potential positives that can come out of it? It can perfect and empower us to live a better Christian life and make us content with reverses suffered "for Christ's sake" and say with Paul, "when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

FOLLY (2 Corinthians 12:11-19)

Paul returns to a theme he has touched on throughout the letter (2 Corinthians 5:13; 11:16-19; 12:6). He resorted to defending his motives, position, decisions and authority against the aforementioned charges. But Paul points out that this was more for their "upbuilding" than for his own defense (2 Corinthians 12:19). He is not some insecure preacher whose feelings have been hurt by a perceived slight; he is fighting for the hearts and souls of relatively new Christians influenced by the culture and false teachers. He wants them to understand that neither he or his co-workers have taken advantage of them. They have loved and served the Corinthians, willing to bear insults, condescension, and rejection in order to help them be saved. As preaching is called "foolishness" (1 Corinthians 1:21), those who preach and teach it must be willing to be thought fools for Christ.

FEAR (I Cor.12:20-21)

It is hard to find a man more courageous than Paul. What did he fear? First, he feared failure. The time and the teaching he had done would be wasted if they were given over to "strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances" (1 Corinthians 12:20). Read through the two letters Paul wrote to them and notice how he addresses all these matters. Second, he feared emotional trauma (1 Corinthians 12:21). His mourning over their past sins would be compounded if they had not repented. Neither of

these fears were irrational. Have you ever invested a lot of time, energy and emotion into someone only to see them teetering on the ledge of apostasy and unfaithfulness?

God wants and needs faithful Christians who care about the church. He needs us to fully invest ourselves, to “spend and be spent” for others. The great news (and Paul not only understood this; He wrote about it) is that God gives strength for our weakness, wisdom for our folly and courage for our fear. He will help pull us out of such figurative valleys as we hold onto His capable hands. Let us do our part and devote ourselves to one another.

— Southside’s Salute

Remember in Prayer

Jurlean Warren was taken to the MCH-ER last Sunday. She received treatment for an ulcer and went home on Monday afternoon only to be taken back to the MCH that evening by the emergency squad due to sickness and possible heart issue.

Larry May wasn’t feeling well last Sunday morning and unable to attend services. But he is feeling much better now.

Concern Update

Joe Morrison (Devida’s brother-in-law) who was diagnosed with brain and bone cancer last week is being scheduled to begin radiation and chemo treatments. Joe and Carolyn live in Latham, OH. He needs prayers.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Maria Baeza; Betty Branson; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Mary Clark; Nabil Garcia Chaires; LaDonna Chism; Makenna Conner; Cathy Eastwood; Ann Ellison; Mark Erwin; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Lon & Lana Howard; Shane Lester; Charles Lewis; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Rudy Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Colton and Corben Sorenson; Alisha Smith; Janice Smith; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; Ron Williams; John Wood,

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Glenna Callendar; LaVerne Couch, James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw.

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

Events

Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

We will have a “**Family Devotional**” in the annex this evening after our service. Everyone is invited.

Keep in mind our “**Teacher’s Appreciation Banquet**” on Saturday, April 22nd in the Annex. Adam Orr will be the guest speaker.

Our “**Vacation Bible School**” has been scheduled for July 24th-26th. The theme is: “The Flood”.

Our “**Summer Series**” will begin, Wednesday June 7th, and goes through August 30th. Our first guest speaker will be Sean Prather. Please try to attend as many services as you possibly can.

The items requested for our “**Food Pantry**” this week are: canned soups or soup packets and one-gallon bottles of water.

What Destroys Your Commitment to Christ?

Wrong Priorities

Demas forsook the Gospel mission because he loved this present world (2 Timothy 4:10)

Failure to Endure Trials

We are told the trying of our faith works patience (James 1:3)

Peter said our faith would be tested, as by fire (1 Peter 1:7), but that the faith that comes through the trial is found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Revelation paints a picture of saints whose “patience” caused them to keep the commandments, keep the faith, but lose their life (Revelation 14:12-13), but who in death were blessed and found rest.

But those who fail to endure trials, they are not worthy to enter the Kingdom.

Losing Focus

Jesus wrote to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 1 and commended them for so many things, but in the end, He said they had lost their first love. They needed to repent and return to the first works. To focus again on Christ.

Self-Defeat

1 Timothy 6:11-17 warns of a person who will trust in uncertain riches and desires to be rich. He is setting a snare for his own soul.

Doing It All Myself

God shows that faithful service is not a one-man show. It is a team effort where children of God work together to please the Lord and to remain faithful.

Elijah (and Elisha)

Moses (and Aaron)

Paul (and Barnabas, Timothy, Titus, Silas, Luke, etc.)

There are many “weak knees” that need support. If you try to do it all yourself, you lose (cf. James 4:10).

Ask yourself, “How many of these things that can destroy my commitment to Christ come from outside of me and how many come from self?”

Can we say, “Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.” (Psalm 26:2)?

—Aaron J. Cozort

March 19th, 2023

Announcements
 Song Leader
 Sermon
 Opening Prayer
 Scripture
 Second Prayer
 Closing Prayer

A.M.

Don Easlon
 Steve Easlon
 Allen Weakland
 Don Easlon
 Travis Ruckman
 Jeff Wesson
 Scot Straw

P.M.

Don Easlon
 Cody Wesson
 Allen Weakland
 Don Easlon
 Bill Ryan
 Caleb York
 Richard Siler

Lords Supper

Jon Roemisch
 Jr. Munoz
 Gary Loving
 Trini Wood

Craig Wesson
 Communion
 (In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Don Easlon 288-5834 *Deacon:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 — *Pulpit:* David Ryan 512-924-0983 — *Table:* Craig Wesson 934-4633 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 — *Collections:* Craig Wesson

Sunday AM

“Commitment”
(Luke 9:23)

Sunday PM

“He Ran”
(Mark 5:1-6)

Our Records

Bible Class... 57
Morning Worship... 101
Evening Worship ... 58
Wednesday... 78
Contribution... \$5,163.76