

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## The Christian's Condition: Past, Present and Future

Those of us who are in Christ should never take for granted what great blessings Christ has given us. Those who are not in Christ must realize the blessings that God offers. This writer is confident that if non-Christians truly knew what Christ offers, they would obey the Gospel without hesitation. In Colossians 1:21-23, Paul outlined the Christian condition. We consider it here with the hopes that those in Christ will be encouraged to serve the Lord with renewed zeal and those outside of Christ will realize the blessings they are missing, turn from their own desires and obey the Gospel.

### **Past: Lost and Hopeless**

“...and you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works...” (Colossians 1:21). “Once” denotes an earlier period of time in the Colossians’ lives when they were away from God. “Alienated” refers to one estranged or one rendered as belonging to another. Formerly, they were not part of God, being without hope (Ephesians 2:12; Romans 1:20-23). Paul added that they were “enemies.” How were they “alienated and enemies”? In their “mind by wicked works”! Their mind, purpose and intent yielded sinful actions (Proverbs 4:23). Not only were they far away from God, but they also proved themselves to be God’s enemies in both thought and action. As Christians, we also at one time were alienated and enemies of Christ. All who are not in Christ still are enemies of our Lord. Where do you fit?

### **Present: Reconciled**

“Yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death...” (Colossians 1:21-22). “Yet now” indicates a strong contrast. Formerly, they were “alienated and enemies,” but now they are reconciled! “Reconciliation” means that we are made friends again with God. It indicates the opposite of “alienated and enemies”. Paul put it like this in Ephesians 2:13, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Reconciliation was made possible by Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), being accomplished by His death on the cross. The combination of “body” and “flesh” in Colossians 1:22 emphasize the humanity of Jesus, which was denied by some in Paul’s day (and ours). Reconciliation, however, required more than the incarnation of Christ. It required the death of His fleshly body. Christ died for all humanity (Hebrews 2:9), but only those who obey Him will benefit from his death (Hebrews 5:9). Are we presently reconciled? Or, are we presently Christ’s enemy?

### **Future: Perfect Presentation**

“To present you holy and blameless and above reproach in His sight” (Colossians 1:22b). Christians, who live faithful “until death” (Revelation 2:10), will one day be “presented” to God in three ways. First, they will be presented “holy,” which means consecrated or set apart for special service. Second, they will be presented “blameless [without blemish, ASV], which means “without spot” (Philippians 2:15). Third, they will be presented “above reproach [unreproveable KJV],” which means “faultless.” This future presentation, however, is conditional, “if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven” (Colossians 1:23).

### **In What Condition Are We?**

Each of us is in one of these first two conditions. If we have not obeyed the Gospel, being baptized into Christ, then we are “alienated and enemies.” God has no pleasure at all in people being lost (Ezekiel 18:32). The good news of the Gospel is that people do not have to be lost! Every reader can be reconciled to God, being made friends with Him. We must simply obey the Gospel. Have you obeyed the Gospel? If not, why not do it today? If we have obeyed, are we continuing to obey the Gospel? If not, why not determine today to renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

—Brian R. Kenyon

## **Prayer Requests**

**Glenda Hillis** is struggling with very painful rheumatoid arthritis at this time which makes it hard for her to get around and also having memory issues. She also anticipates knee replacement surgery in the near future. Glenda is in need of prayers.

**Sandy Cole** (a former member) is experiencing severe back pain caused by a herniated disk and also arthritis. There are surgical plans to remove the bad part of the disk. She has requested that we keep her and also John in our prayers as he has been suffering with Alzheimer's for quite a while now.

## **Concerns Update**

**Winford Hambright** had a few rough days after a feeding tube was put in his stomach last week. He was taken to the Parks Living Care Facility on Monday, March 19th to continue his rehab. He is in room #303. Hopefully, Winford can regain some of his swallowing function and also be able to walk better on his own.

**Jimmy Weaver** was released from the hospital on the 15th and was taken back to Parks Living to continue his rehab. He is in room #302. The doctors added another medicine to go along with the Lactulose medication. These two medications will help keep Jimmy's ammonia levels down. Jim will have hernia surgery on March 29th if all goes well with his rehab.

**Dana Erwin** (Linda Tate's cousin) was able to go home from Madison Medical Resort Saturday, March 17th. She is still in need of therapy and will have in-home health care services. Keep Dana in your prayers.

## **Prayer List**

Mary Anchondo; Tom Bauer; Elsie Bradford; Bill & Mary Brown; Bill Butler; Glenna McCarty-Callendar; David Castor; Beth Clay; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; Dana Erwin; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; David Guynn; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Glenda Hillis; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Eliseo Lopez; Russ Montgomery; Tanya Nichols; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Elvia Ruckman; Montrella Ruffner; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Verlie Snyder; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Laura Vasquez; Jurlean Warren; Doris Weakland; Jimmy Weaver; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; Wanda Wheeler; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley; John Wood; Jack Wright.

## **Eisenhower's Shut-ins**

Jennie Fuls; Roberta Hamil; Janis Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

## **Youth**

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

How many Judges were there?

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

The Epistles of Jude and James were written the Jesus' brothers.

## **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.

## **Office News**

The **"Tipton Children's Home"** from Oklahoma will be in Odessa on April 10th-12th. They need **Spaghetti Noodles and Diced Tomatoes.**

**Happy Birthday!** to **Maxine Newton** who will turn 90 years old on March 29th. Her family is hosting a come and go **“Surprise Birthday Celebration”** on Saturday, March 31st between 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the ballroom at Lincoln Tower Retirement Village. We have been invited to attend and help celebrate with her and her family. We would like to encourage each of our members to either mail Maxine a birthday card or take one to her in person. Refreshments will be served.

We Are Committed... (Alton Norman)

To commit something is to do that thing. Thus we read, *“You shall not commit adultery”* and passages like that. We often speak of commitment in a more philosophical way with phrases like “He is a committed Democrat or Republican.”

But it seems to me that commitment is more clearly seen in our actions than our beliefs. Jeremiah spoke to this point when he said, *“Will you steal, murder, commit adultery and swear falsely and offer sacrifices to Baal and walk after other gods that you have not known, then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name...”* (7: 9-10)? The children of Israel were committing all these sinful acts. They were committed to sin and yet wanted to call upon God in His house. God will not tolerate that kind of commitment. Indeed, *“...the firm foundation of God stands having this seal. The Lord knows those that are His; and, Let everyone that names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness”* (2 Timothy 2:19). Shall we continue in sin as Christians? NO! (Romans 6:1) Commitment requires that we become *“doers of the word”* (James 1:22). What you are committing tells who you are committed to. So, what are you doing for the Lord?

<b>March 25th, 2018</b>	<b>A.M.</b>	<b>P.M.</b>
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Craig Wesson	Dex Dennard
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Dex Dennard	Josh Weakland
Second Prayer	Jacob Carson	Tom Sorenson
Closing Prayer	Rudy Ochoa	John Wood
Lord's Supper		
West...	George Warren	Scot Straw
	Don Easlon	Communion
	Richard Siler	(In Library)
East...	Gary Loving	
	Bill Ryan	
	Trinidad Wood	

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* : Allen Weakland -362-1403 *Deacon*: Jr. Munoz 363-1309 *Pulpit*: Chris Butler 362-7486 *Table*: Scot Straw 301-0549 *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties*: Tommy Garcia 638-2702 *Collections*: Tommy Garcia 638-2702

**Sunday AM**

*“The Road to Honor”*  
(1 Samuel 2:30)

**Sunday PM**

*“Dawning of Hope”*  
(Romans 5:1-2)

**Our Records**

*Bible Class... 73*  
*Morning Worship...111*  
*Evening Worship...60*  
*Wednesday...61*  
*Contribution...\$3,693.61*