

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Bearing the Cross

In Matthew 16:24,25 we have this statement, *“Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”* This brief statement encompasses the whole truth of what it takes to be a Christian. But many do not understand the implications of these two short verses. And because they do not understand it as they should, they are not the kind of followers that Jesus had in mind. We fall short of our responsibility as a child of God because we do not understand what is required in bearing or taking up our cross. We think that our burden is almost nonexistent. This comes from our misunderstanding and misapplication of another statement of Christ, which says, *“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).”* We misunderstand that his yoke is easy compared to the eternal consequence of Hell if we do not follow. It is easy in that we have the promise of Heaven to look forward to. But this does not teach that we have little or nothing to do.

To bear the cross of a Christian is to first deny ourselves. This means that we are to renounce all that we want and desire, to do what is required of God. But how many times do we hold on to our desires placing them in front of the clear commands of God saying to ourselves surely God won't mind me doing a little of this or that. But any time we put our wants and wishes before what we know we should do, we have not denied ourselves. We have taken up our desires and have laid down the cross of Christ turning our back on our Lord and Savior.

Have we considered why Jesus used a tool of execution as a means to teach this lesson? It is because our physical life must be put on the line at all times for us to attain the spiritual eternal life in Heaven. As Jesus forfeited his own life to save us from our sins, we must also be willing to forfeit our physical lives in service to God. But many have only desired to lay down a little of their life. They will only give a little time, or a little money or just a little effort. They will always seek to do as little as they can. But God calls for all of our life. If we hold back even a little, we are not doing what is commanded. Paul said in Romans 12:1 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”* We are to be as one that has given and continues to give himself as a sacrifice to God. Sacrifice necessitates the death of that which is offered. This means that we must deny ourselves to do what God's word teaches. This sacrifice is not just some of the time but all the time. Even Jesus taught giving our all in giving the Great Command in Matthew 22:37-38, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.”* Some is not enough in our Christian service. Some is not all. Only when we give our all will we have obeyed the command to take up the cross. Too many other things in this life have taken precedence over our

lives as servants of God. If Jesus gave His all, how is it that we think that we can give less? Great men in the Bible have always been those that regardless of the consequences have given all that they could. Those that were not great gave less. Dare we take the chance that our little service will be enough. —

Robert Barcroft

### **Baptism**

Our hearts were made to rejoice Sunday morning, April 12th when **Eva Wells** came forward at the invitation to put her Lord on in baptism. Eva and her husband Brad have been studying the Bible with Bill and Robbie Butler. Let's give Eva a very warm welcome into the body of Christ.

### **Response**

**Teresa Vires** also came forward Sunday morning requesting prayers of the congregation. She is going through a very stressful time in her life. Teresa has been dealing with severe depression along with anxiety attacks. Please keep her in your prayers that she will be able to overcome the afflictions that are affecting her life.

### **Sympathy**

We would like to extend our condolences to the family of **Bill Bayless**. Bill passed from this life on Friday, April 10th at Madison Health Resort. His funeral services were held Monday, April 13th at 1:00 p.m. at the Sunset Funeral Home. Allen Weakland conducted the services.

Our sympathy goes out to Carolyn Wilkerson in the loss of her son, **Clay Wilkerson**. Clay passed away Friday, April 10th in Port Aransas, TX from natural causes. He was 54 years old. His daughters were overseeing the arrangements. Services are pending.

Keep Anita Ortiz, Rudy and Emma Ochoa's granddaughter, in your prayers as she grieves the loss of her mother-in-law, **Terri Pettis**. Terri died early Sunday morning, April 12th, around 2:00 a.m. at her home. She was 52 years old. Funeral services are pending.

### **Prayer Request**

**Maria Anaya** had an aneurysm on her foot. She is to stay off of it for a while.

Bill Tolbert took his wife, **Velma**, to the ER last week because of dehydration. She was treated and able to go back home.

**Jr. Munoz** has requested prayers for his mother who is dealing with some health issues at this time.

**Charles Browning**, friend of John Wood is doing better after having been accidentally shot.

### **Concerns Update**

Both **Connie Lowe** and **Toya Zambelli** were scheduled for a conference on Monday, April 13th with their doctors regarding their cancer issues. Connie is a member at Eisenhower and Toya lives in Corpus Christi and is the sister of Devida's son-in-law.

### **Prayer List**

Elaine Armentrout; Cody & Kala Ausbrook; Petra Baca; Paxton Basaldua; Velma Bettes; Susan Bosse; Charles Browning; Neva Carrigan; Don & Hazel Cavanaugh; Amber Couch; Iola Cunningham; Ruby Davis; Dayton Dennard; Jewell Bettes-Dennard; Doug Dowell; James Drake; Jake & Summer Finley; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Burt & Anna Groves; Winford & Jean Hambright; Linda Horton; Bobby Hunt; Lon Howard; Susan Lee; Connie Lowe; Kathy Marshall; Shannon McAfee; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Caleista Millican; Loy Mitchell; Yamile Moreno; Juan & Estella Morolez; Allison & Nathan Moyers; Judy Phillips; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Carmen Settle; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Nancy Slife; Marilyn Upshaw; Bré elle Watts; Lisa Wells; Timmy Joe Wright; Wilene Wright; Toya Zambelli

## Shut-Ins

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

## Events

The next **New Mexico Children's Home** food drive will be Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015. They are requesting Cinnamon and Cream of Wheat. There are coin cans available if you would like to collect change for them to be picked up in June.

## Youth

### Bible Quiz Question...

What creature ate the gourd which sheltered Jonah?

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

Samson carried away the city gates of Gaza.

## 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

April 22nd—Cody Wesson  
April 29th—Dex Dennard

#### Song Leaders

Allen Weakland  
Trinidad Wood

## Office News

A **"Work Day"** has been scheduled for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. We plan on doing repairs and painting. Please try to be at building by 9:00 a.m. if you are able to help work on our building.

### *Graduation Shower...*

There will be a **"Graduation Shower"** for Hannah Weakland Sunday, May 3rd from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Annex. She will be graduating from OHS Friday, June 5th. Hostesses are: Debbie Marrs, June Smith, Patsy Mitchell, Larriat McGhee and Shona Wood. Everyone is invited.

#### **April 19th, 2015**

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

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

Larry May  
John Carroll  
Allen Weakland  
Larry May  
Tom Sorenson  
Jacob Carson  
Bill Ryan

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

Larry May  
Jacob Carson  
Allen Weakland  
Larry May  
Rudy Ochoa  
Don Easlon  
Tom Sorenson

West...

Don Easlon  
Bill Brown  
Dylan Straw

Tony Marrs  
Communion  
(In Library)

East...

Bill Butler  
Jr. Munoz  
Scot Straw

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon:* Don Easlon 363-0350 *Pulpit:* Chris Butler 362-7486  
*Table:* Tony Marrs 553-7349 *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties:* George Warren 550-0805  
*Contributions:* George Warren 550-0805

**Sunday AM”**

*“Certainties of the Christian Faith”*  
*(1 John 5:18-21)*

**Sunday PM**

*“Feeding of the Masses”*  
*(Mark 6:32-44)*

**Our Records**

*Bible Class...76*  
*Morning Worship...125*  
*Evening Worship...70*  
*Wednesday...87*  
*Contribution...\$5,111.66*

