

Eisenhower Church of Christ

God Looks at the Heart

A recent posting on Facebook showed a painting depicting Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Eve had a piece of fruit in her hand, from which she had taken a bite, and which she was offering to Adam. At the top of the picture the caption asks, “Does this doctrine sound familiar?” At the bottom of the picture these words appear: “He doesn’t care what we eat. It’s what’s in our hearts that matters. —Eve”

While we may not have heard this idea in reference to Adam and Eve in the Garden, most of us have indeed heard it in other contexts. It is the trump card usually played by one whose conduct or attitude has come under criticism. In the face of reproof from God’s word, the offending party will often brush the criticism aside by asserting that all God really cares about is the condition of one’s heart. The implication is that if one loves God in his or her heart, then God is pleased, no matter what that person may or may not do. Also implied in this statement is that “rule keepers” are actually hypocrites who don’t actually love God in their hearts.

As is the case with most lies, there is a kernel of truth in this assertion. The Pharisees were the premier rule keepers of their day, but the Lord correctly identified them as hypocrites whose hearts were far away from God (Matthew 15:8-9). They were hypocrites, not because of their insistence on obedience to God’s commands, but because they were voiding God’s commands by their human traditions. This is very different from the sincere chastisement given to one who has strayed from God’s will.

It is true, of course, that God looks on the heart. In I Samuel 16:7 Samuel the prophet learned this when he looked upon the sons of Jesse trying to determine which one of them God wanted to be king of Israel. The Lord said, “*Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*” Samuel was impressed with the physical attributes of Jesse’s older sons, but God had chosen the youngest, David, to be king because he was a man after God’s own heart (I Samuel 13:14).

The fact that God looks on the heart does not, however, discount the fact that He requires mankind to obey His commandments. David is an excellent example of this truth. David was a man after God’s own heart because he obeyed God’s commands. His good heart led him to respect God’s will and to do his very best to always obey it. The love he held for God in his heart was demonstrated by his obedience. If he had done otherwise, he would not have had the right kind of heart.

This is what is lost on those who claim that their hearts are right with God even as they do their own thing in their worship and walk with Him. The one who loves God obeys His commands. The one who disobeys God’s commands, does not love Him. Our Lord and Savior made this very point on the night of His betrayal. In John 14:15 Jesus said, “*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*” He made the same point in different words in John 4:24. Jesus told the woman at the well, “*God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*”

God is not pleased by actions performed superficially, no matter how correct their form. Neither is He pleased by warm, heart-felt actions that have the appearance of love, but which violate His will. God requires us to love Him sincerely, from the heart, and to demonstrate that love by our obedience to His commands.

—Fred Dominguez

Sympathy

Our condolences go out to the family of **Hager Montgomery** (Devida's uncle). Hager died early Friday, morning, April 17th in a hospital in Waverly, OH. His services were held Sunday, April 19th in Waverly. Hager was 94 years old.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Ora McAfee on the loss of her sister-in-law, **Velma Betts**. Velma passed away Wednesday, April 15th in a hospital in Amarillo, TX. Funeral services were held Monday, April 20th in Amarillo.

Concerns Update

Connie Lowe has been diagnosed with bone cancer. She received two injections Monday, April 13th at MD Anderson which are supposed to help put the cancer into remission. Connie will go back to Houston in two weeks for more injections. Please keep her in your daily prayers.

Amber Couch, LaVern Couch's granddaughter, is out of the hospital and is staying with her sister. Amber is struggling with cancer and also kidney problems.

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

Prayer List

Elaine Armentrout; Cody & Kala Ausbrook; Petra Baca; Paxton Basaldua; Susan Bosse; Charles Browning; Jane Burroughs; 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; Judy Phillips; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Carmen Settle; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Nancy Slife; Marilyn Upshaw; Teresa Vires; 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...

Who frightened his enemies by blowing trumpets and smashing pots?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

A worm ate the gourd which sheltered Jonah.

FYI

Denny Wilson is hosting a weekly radio program called “**Christian Take Aim**” at 6:30 pm Tuesdays; www.thegospelradionetwork.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 29th—Dex Dennard
May 6th—Denny Wilson
May 13th—Rudy Ochoa
May 20th—Jacob Carson

Song Leaders

Trinidad Wood
Cody Wesson
Dex Dennard
Trinidad Wood

Office News

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.

Wedding Announcement...

Craig Wesson and Kallie Culp will be united in Holy Matrimony May 16th at 6:30 p.m. at “The Willows”. Please RSVP by today if you would like to attend their wedding.

Food for Thought...

Religion is not just doing religious things, but doing all things religiously.

There will be no crown-wearers in Heaven who were not cross-bearers on earth.

A Touch of Loveliness

Add a touch of loveliness
To the things you say and do.
Give pleasure to more people
By a happy smile, won’t you?
Be thoughtful of the people
Whom you meet in shop and store,
Then to God you will be dearer,
He will love you even more.
Aim higher, think kinder,
Be a better, nicer you.
Aim higher, think kinder,
For this world has need of you.

—Author Unknown

April 26th, 2015

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

A.M.

Larry May
 Clint Titlow
 Allen Weakland
 Larry May
 Josh Wells
 Bill Tolbert
 John Carroll

P.M.

Larry May
 Rudy Ochoa
 Allen Weakland
 Larry May
 Jeff Wesson
 John Wood
 Jack Wright

West...

John Wood
 Craig Wesson
 Ed Fisher

Tony Marrs
 Communion
 (In Library)

East...

Trinidad Wood
 Richard Siler
 Dex Dennard

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"

"Fear of the Lord"
(Proverbs 1:7)

Sunday PM

"Walking on Water"
(Mark 6:45-52)

Our Records

*Bible Class...*84
*Morning Worship...*123
*Evening Worship...*59
*Wednesday...*85
Contribution...\$3,675.00

