

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Reasoning Power of the Gospel

“Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you” (Acts 24:25). His mind was made up. Paul was going to Rome to appeal to Caesar. Yet, along the way Paul had a once in a lifetime opportunity to speak to such wicked men as Agrippa and Felix. If you could speak to some of the world’s most powerful leaders today about the Gospel, what would you say? Let’s consider Paul’s three major points to Felix.

Righteousness. Felix was not well known for his righteous nature. In fact, he was probably well known for quite the opposite. Yet, Paul was able to bring the great Felix to his knees in fear by preaching righteousness. Oh, how we need more teaching on righteousness today. Jesus said, “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:20). We need more preaching on righteousness in marriage. God set marriage up to be one man and one wife for a lifetime, the only exception is for fornication (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:9). We need more teaching on righteous living today. Paul encouraged some in Corinth to awake to righteousness and stop sinning (1 Corinthians 15:34). John reminds us that everyone who is born of God works righteousness in his life (1 John 2:29). In a world that mocks at sin and revels in the unrighteous lifestyle, we as Christians must be a light by living righteously.

Self-Control. Paul now turns to the second problem in Felix’s life. Felix, and much of the Roman world, lacked any self-control. The motto of the day could have been “If it feels good, do it.” Felix is especially known for his lack of self-control in the fleshly and sexual realm. Today, we still have a lot of Felix’s kinfolks around who have absolutely no restraint when it comes to sexual desires. Christians, must not give in to many of the fleshly pleasures of the world, but rather abstain from them. Peter encouraged us to, “abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11). To help control our lusts, we must access a power greater than ourselves. The Bible says, we can do all things through Jesus Christ who is our strength (Philippians 4:13). When we are tempted to give in to our lust, we need to turn to God in prayer and ask Him for help (1 Peter 5:7).

Judgment to Come. Everything Paul had previously said, would have had no effect on Felix were it not for the Judgment Day of God. Why should people live righteous lives today? What motive is there for controlling our lusts and passions? The greatest motive of all is that one day we will stand before God and be judged for all that we have done in this life (Ecc. 12:14). Concerning the judgment, Paul reminds us that God will bring every work into judgment including every secret thing we have said or done (2 Corinthians 5:10). The judgment of God will be according to His Word (John 12:48). As we read the words of Revelation 20:12-15, we have to see Felix and ourselves at the Judgment. “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the

second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

The Bible has the ability to satisfy our greatest spiritual needs. Are we really living righteous lives that practice self-control in view of the judgment of God? May we never have the attitude of Felix who sadly said, “Go away for now, when I have a more convenient season, I will call upon you.” We are never told that Felix obeyed the Gospel. Do not wait too late. May we be encouraged to live for God every day of our lives!

—Ben Bailey

Prayer Requests

Mary Brown had an MRI done on her shoulder last week and was told that she has a torn rotator cuff. She is expecting the possibility of surgery.

Melida Frazier (Devida’s sister) is scheduled to have cataract eye surgery May 8th on her left eye and her right eye will be done May 22nd. Prayers are requested for a successful surgery.

Concerns Update

Sylvia Campos’ MRI done last Monday went well. She was scheduled to get her test results within a few days to see if her eyes are causing any of her problems. Keep Sylvia in your prayers.

LaDonna Chism was diagnosed with two cysts on her pancreas and possibly a heart attack during her last trip to the hospital. LaDonna is in need of our prayers.

Becky Gillespie (Shona Wood’s cousin) who was hospitalized last week for double pneumonia was doing well and able to go home.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Maria Baeza; Betty Branson; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; LaDonna Chism; Cathy Eastwood; Mark Erwin; Becky Gillespie; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Lon & Lana Howard; Shane Lester; Charles Lewis; Jose Managbao; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Joe Morrison; Rudy Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Linda Tate; Jurlean Warren; 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 the 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

Today is our Fifth Sunday “**Potluck Luncheon**”. We will have our luncheon after our A.M. worship service followed by our P.M. service. Our visitors are welcome to join us.

Our “**2023 Summer Series**” begins June 7th and goes through August 30th. Our first speaker will be Sean Prather from Monahans. We have our invitation flyers on the table in the foyer for you to use to invite your family, friends and neighbors.

Our “**Vacation Bible School**” will be July 24th-26th. The theme is: “The Flood”. Bring your children and invite your neighborhood children also.

The items requested for our “**Food Pantry**” for this week are: dried beans and honey. (plastic only)

The Glorious Gospel

What is the Gospel? People give many answers to that question. But, let us let the Bible answer it once and for all. If we look to God’s Word on the Gospel, we will see just how glorious it truly is.

The Gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1), specifically concerning His death, burial, and glorious resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). It is the message of peace (Romans 10:15), the good news about the grace of God (Acts 20:24). Truly, the Gospel is a blessing from a glorious God (Romans 15:29).

The glorious Gospel is the means by which God calls men to Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:14). In fact, it is how we partake of God’s promises in Christ (Eph. 3:6). The Gospel is where God channels His power to save souls (Romans 1:16).

The Gospel is truth in a world filled with deception (Colossians 1:5). It is enlightenment in a world engulfed in darkness (2 Corinthians 4:4). It is life-giving in a world shrouded in death (2 Timothy 2:8). This world will end, but the glorious Gospel is everlasting (Rev. 14:6).

To get these benefits of the glorious Gospel, we must believe it (Mark 1:15), receive it (1 Corinthians 15:1), and obey it (Romans 10:16). Then stand in it (1 Cor. 15:1), live it (Phil. 1:27), serve in it (Romans 1:9), minister it (Romans 15:16) and fellowship in it (Phil. 1:5).

But be warned: Satan has influenced some men to hide the true message of the Gospel (2 Cor. 4:3), to hinder its progress (1 Cor. 9:12) and to pervert and change its glorious truths (Gal. 1:6-7). That is why we must preach it (Mk. 16:15), defend it (Phil. 1:17) and never be ashamed of it (Rom. 1:16). Incidentally, the preaching of the Gospel will lead to people believing it and being baptized in obedience to it for salvation (Mk. 16:15-16).

Paul through inspiration called the Gospel glorious (1 Tim. 1:11). It is glorious! Let us continually be reminded of just how powerful it is, how it has changed our lives for the better and forever, and that we have a responsibility to truthfully distribute it. Glory be to God for His glorious Gospel!

—Ed Sterchi

April 30, 2023	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Steve Easlon	Jon Roemisch
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Caleb York	David Ryan
Second Prayer	Scot Straw	Richard Siler
Closing Prayer	Jr. Munoz	Don Easlon
Lords Supper	<u>Jacob Carson</u> Phil Halbert Jon Roemisch Travis Ruckman	Tommy Garcia (Communion) (In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231—*Pulpit:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 —*Table:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332— *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 —*Recording Sermons:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 — *Collections:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“Spiritual People” (Joshua 23:1-5)

Sunday PM

“Overcoming Discouragement” (Job 4:1-6)

Our Records

Bible Class... 72

Morning Worship...115

Evening Worship ... 58

Wednesday...NC

Contribution...\$4,959.50