

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Why Do You Delay?

At the end of Paul's third missionary journey, he returned to Jerusalem for the first time in many years. He was bringing a gift from Gentile Christians for the needy Jewish brethren in Jerusalem. While Paul was in the temple grounds with some of the Jewish Christians of that city, the Jews took exception to his presence and began to beat him. Roman soldiers came to his rescue and when order had been restored, they allowed Paul to address the crowd of Jews.

The record of Paul's defense is found in Acts 22:1-21. In the course of his defense Paul declared his heritage as a Jew and publicly admitted that he had personally persecuted Christians, even going so far as to obtain letters from the leaders of the Jews so he could go to Damascus in search of Christians. In vs. 6-16 Paul told the crowd what happened to him as he approached the city; a bright light shined on him from heaven, and the Lord spoke to him, commanding him to go into the city where he would be told what he must do.

In vs. 12-16 Paul told of the visit by Ananias, who had been sent to him by the Lord. Ananias restored Paul's sight, which had been lost when the bright light shined upon him. Then Paul related what Ananias told him on that occasion. Ananias said, "***Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins calling on His name.***" (Acts 22:16) This statement is extremely important because it tells us that Paul was not yet saved, even though he had seen Jesus and spoken to Him. He was not yet saved even though a miracle had been performed on him. He was not yet saved even though he had spent three days fasting and praying while waiting in Damascus (Acts 9:9-11).

Paul's conversion is important because it contradicts some of the very things that many people believe save them today. Some believe that some kind of supernatural overwhelming by the Holy Spirit is what saves them. Paul saw and spoke to Jesus, but Ananias commanded him to be baptized to wash away his sins. Some believe that praying in penitent contrition saves them. Paul prayed and fasted for three days, far longer than anyone does today, and still Ananias told him to be baptized to wash away his sins. Some believe that all one has to do is call on the name of the Lord in order to be saved, so they offer a prayer in order to do so. Ananias, however, told Paul that being baptized to wash away his sins is how one calls on the name of the Lord.

A few years after the incident in Acts 22, Paul stood before the Roman Governor, Porcius Festus, and the Jewish King Agrippa. As Paul made his defense before these rulers, he again told his conversion story. In Acts 22:19 Paul said, "***So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision.***" In this brief statement Paul affirmed Luke's record in Acts 9:18 that he immediately obeyed Ananias' command to be baptized to wash away his sins. Paul understood that his soul was in jeopardy before God and that his only hope was to have his sins washed away by the blood of Jesus. He also understood that his sins would only be washed away when he submitted to baptism into Christ. This is why he did not delay to obey.

All who have not yet been baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38-39) are still covered with their sins. All who face God in judgment in this condition will be lost for eternity. This truth makes this matter urgent. We do not know when we will die, and we do not know when the Lord will return for judgment. So then, why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.

—Fred Dominguez

Sympathy

Again, our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Lexus and Lacie Phelps in the loss of their father, **David Phelps**, Thursday, April 21st exactly one week from the death of their mother, Connie Phelps, at their home in Whitehouse, TX. Connie was a close friend to Juli Marshall. Please keep Lexus and Lacie in your prayers as they deal with such a terrible loss all at one time.

Also, condolences go to Patsy Mitchell and her family in the death of her uncle last week in Amarillo, TX. His funeral services were conducted in Hollis, OK Sunday, April 24th.

Prayer Requests

James Weaver was taken to the Covenant Hospital in Lubbock Monday, April 25th. The course of action for James is to remove the infected hip and insert an antibiotic spacer for 6 to 8 weeks then put in a replacement hip. The surgery must be done immediately. Keep James in your prayers.

Kelsey Gomez, friend to LaDonna Chism, has been hospitalized for gall bladder and liver issues. She is a new mother of a few weeks. Kelsey is in need of prayers.

Matthew Quiroz, a former student of LaDonna Chism, has been given three months to live. Matthew has cancer in his lungs and does not want any more chemo. He is 11 years old. Please keep the Quiroz family in your prayers.

Bryan Parker's stepdad is hospitalized in Fort Worth due to pneumonia and has been put on a ventilator. His stepdad is also fighting cancer in his lungs which adds to the problem. The Parkers are close friends to Allen and Christy Weakland. Prayers are requested.

Concerns Update

Betty Branson received a steroid shot for pain about a week ago. It helped for a little while but the pain came back and Betty was given another steroid shot Tuesday, April 26th. Hopefully the second shot will help.

Brendon Shook, had an adjustment to his medication and seems to be doing better. Brendon is a close friend to Haley Erwin.

Charles Simmons' surgery went well. The doctor did get all of the remaining wires and even the metal electrodes that were attached to his spine. Charles is very sore but hopefully will be feeling well soon. Charles & Susan want to thank everyone for their prayers.

Jack Wright was taken to the ER at MCH last week for a bleeding problem. He was treated and released that afternoon.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Betty Branson; Bobbie Braun; Neva Carrigan; Steve Chavez; Zane Chism; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Bill Gibbons; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Linda Horton; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Charles & Helen Jones; Mariah Lee; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Jill McAfee; Elder McCarty; Anna McGlothlin; Patty Montgomery; Russ

Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Julie Munoz; Laura Olivas; Earlene Poses; Elvia Ruckman; Montrella Ruffner; Andrew Schwarz; Brendon Shook; Brenda Simmons; James Singleterry; Bob Spurlin; Meta Troutz; Lisa Wells; Toya Zambelli

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Neva Carrigan; Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

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

Events

All ladies 60 years and up is invited to...*The Steel Magnolias' Spring Tea*, Saturday, May 7th between 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m. The tea is being hosted by The Teenage Girl's Class. RSVP to the sign-up sheet in the east foyer.

“**Strengthening the Family**” Group #1 will have their luncheon today following the morning service. All visitors are invited.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Who had a vision of a sheet full of animals?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

A talent was a gold coin.

FYI

Watch “*In Search of the Lord's Way*” every Sunday morning at 6:30 am on KOSA, 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.

Office News

The “**New Mexico Children's Home**” will be back in Odessa Tuesday, May 31st, 2016 for a food pick up. They are requesting **Real Mayonnaise**. Also, coin cans are on the table in the east foyer to use for money donations.

May 1, 2016	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Rudy Ochoa	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Richard Siler	Cody Wesson
Second Prayer	Don Easlon	Larry May
Closing Prayer	Jr. Munoz	Josh Wells
Lord's Supper		
West...	Craig Wesson	Scot Straw
	Bill Ryan	Communion
	Isaiah Armendarez	(In Library)

East... Josh Wells
Tom Sorenson
Dylan Straw

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Allen Weakland 362-1403 *Deacon*: John Wood 413-7444; *Pulpit*: Jacob Carson 940-3775;
Table: Scot Straw 301-0549; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Chris Butler 362-7486;
Collections: Chris Butler 362-7486

Sunday AM

"Ebenezer"
(1 Samuel 7:7-14)

Sunday PM

"When the Straying Need Turning"
(James 5:19-20)

Our Records

Bible Class... 86
Morning Worship...135
Evening Worship...77
Wednesday...80
Contribution...\$4,329.55

