

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Nobody Gets to Heaven Without a Fight

Is the title of this article true? Is it the case that nobody gets to heaven without a fight? Some would possibly say, “do you not know that the Bible says we are to love everybody?” Some might even claim that such a statement is “mean spirited and not the attitude or character a Christian should have.” While it is true that Children of God are to love all people (Jn. 13:34; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 6:27) and have proper attitudes (Ephesians 4:15), this is in no way negates the truthfulness that nobody gets to heaven without a fight.

Before we get too far in the article, I wish to clarify that I am not talking about evangelism at the point of a sword. As brother Foy E. Wallace said, “We cannot shoot the Gospel into a man nor machine gun Christianity into a community. The Gospel is not coercive; it is persuasive.” The apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10:4, ***“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”*** Did you notice that? Paul referred to our warfare. New Testament Christians, we are at war. Not a physical war, but they/we were/are in a spiritual war, a spiritual battle. Ephesians 6:12 says, ***“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*** That is the reason Paul would tell Timothy, and by extension all Christians in 2 Timothy 2:3, ***“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”*** Those who have obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ are in the Army of the Lord.

As soldiers of the Lord, we must ever be ready for duty, prepared for conflict (spiritual) and never retreat in the face of the enemy. When trials and tribulations come upon us in this life, we wade into battle wearing the armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-17) and “war a good warfare” (I Timothy 1:18). New Testament Christians cannot “turn tail and run” away from the battle. I Corinthians 15:58 is the “stand your ground” law of the kingdom when it says, ***“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”*** We are to be steadfast (seated, fixed, standing one’s ground) and unmovable (unshaken, stable) in the work which Jesus Christ requires His children to do.

This leads us to ask, “What if we do not stay in the fight? What if we do surrender. In Revelation 21:8 we read “But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Those who are “fearful” are included with those who will not enter heaven. The basic meaning of this word is cowardly, fearful, timid, fainthearted. This word is used only two other times in the New Testament, in Matthew 8:26 and in Mark 4:40. This word translated “fearful” is never used in a good sense in the New Testament. These are those who shrink back and are unwilling to pay the costs of discipleship. In these God is not pleased; ***“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who***

draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul” (Hebrews 10:38-39). There is no room in the Lord’s army for cowards and one must not maintain such an ongoing attitude. We are to stay in the fight, regardless of circumstances, whether in times of pandemic or riots or whatever storm of life that comes upon us. If we do not, nobody gets to heaven without a fight.

Jerry D. Sturgill

Prayer Request

LaDonna Chism had a bad fall recently which caused some bruising and swelling. Please keep her in your prayers that she will have a speedy recovery.

K. C. Caulder (friend of John Wood) is in need of prayers. He has been diagnosed with really bad PTSD.

Concerns Update

Doug Guynn has begun his immunotherapy. He will undergo more procedures that are being scheduled for him. Keep Doug in your prayers.

Terresia Weaver went over the results from her scans on Friday, April 30th.

Prayer List

Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Petra Baca; Betty Branson; Betty Brooks; Bill & Mary Brown; Abessa Chavez; LaDonna Chism; Jon Cooper; Andrew Durfee; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Irma Gomez; Paul Gunn; Cody Guynn; Doug Guynn; Opal Hager; Phil Halbert; Liz Leach; Mildred Lee; Betty Leeth; Miguel Lozano; Alex & Barbie Martinez; Ezekiel Martinez; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Corina Rodriquez; David Ryan; Diane Salinas; Gary Schwulst; Bill Tate; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; Charles Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... (Multiple Choice)

“Which disciple recognized Jesus when He caused them to catch so many fish? (a) Thomas (b) the disciple whom Jesus loved; or (c) Peter

Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer ...

(b) Answer is Romans. Paul uses this verse in his argument that no one is able to be accepted by God on the basis of works. (Romans 3:12)

Events Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

Thank You

It was great to be back here in Odessa, Texas with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share songs of Evangelism with you all!

Serving the King

Myron Bruce

Office News

Graduation Shower...

You are invited to a “**Graduation Celebration Shower**” honoring Joshua Weakland who will graduate from Permian High School on May 29th. His shower will be Sunday, May 16th from 2-4 PM in the Annex. Hostesses are Mirta Garcia, Kallie Wesson, Larriat McGhee, Elizabeth Armendarez, Ashley Carson and Patsy Mitchell.

The New Mexico Christian Children’s Home will be here June 2nd. They are requesting **Taco Seasoning Packets**. They also accept monetary donations.

Overcoming Discouragement

Working for the Lord can sometimes be very discouraging. There are times when we plan, work and sacrifice in order to obey God (by serving others), yet those we serve don’t seem to appreciate our efforts. Instead of thanking and commending us, they criticize us and talk bad about us behind our backs. We may begin wondering “what’s the use, should I keep knocking myself out, if what I am doing is not appreciated?” We think, “Maybe I should pull back and not work so hard, or maybe I should just quit altogether.” During times like these, we need to stop and consider our thinking. Discouragement is a feeling and feelings can be controlled by the way we think. James told the Christians of the dispersia to rejoice (feeling) in their trials by knowing (thinking) that the testing of their faith developed perseverance (James 1:2-3). Paul encouraged the Corinthian Christians by directing their minds to a godly view of their trials. “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know (thinking) that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (I Corinthians 15:58).

Whenever you are criticized or whenever you are not being shown appreciation for your hard work and you begin feeling discouraged go to God’s word for a mental tune-up. By filling our minds with the truths of God, Christians can overcome discouragement!

EXERCISE:

1. Read the following passages of scriptures at least once this week.: I Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9-10; Matthew 5:11-12; Acts 5:17-24; James 5:7-9
2. Thank God for the truths He has given you that can empower you to think the right way, feel the right way and behave the right way.

–Bud Lambert

May 2, 2021

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Cody Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Don Eason	Jackie Perkins
Second Prayer	Gary Loving	Richard Siler
Closing Prayer	Miguel Lozano	Bill Ryan

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading:

Jaxon Straw

Craig Wesson

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547 – *Deacon:* Bill Ryan 352-4871 – *Pulpit:* John Wood 413-7444 – *Table:* Craig Wesson 934-4633 – *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990 – *Recording Sermons:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 – *Collections:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“Life Worth Living”
(Philemon 1:4-7)

Sunday PM

“Preaching the Cross” Pt. 3”
(I Corinthians 1:18)

Our Records

Bible Class...79
Morning Worship...101
Evening Worship —
Wednesday... 63
Contribution... \$3,586.35