

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Hatred of the Church

Those who have studied the history of the first century church have been richly rewarded, for in so doing they have learned what true spirituality is. The Bible story of the achievements of the early church is one of faith dedication, hardship and perseverance. Their motivation was such that they activated themselves to the extent that they shook the entire world!

This zealous spirit was prompted by the fact that they expected the Lord to come at any moment. They were therefore given to urgency realizing that persons were lost without the Gospel of Christ. They were likewise aware that Christianity is a partnership affair and united their efforts in proclaiming the story of the cross. They knew that the doing of duty would bring persecution but that help was always near. As a result of their zeal, they were hated with a venomous hatred. They were considered as those “that everywhere were spoken against” (Acts 28:22).

The Son of God, the builder of the church, prior to that time had been hated even though He was without sin. Why was the Lord hated even to the extent of being put to death? Did not the Jewish sects, the Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, and Essenes loathe and detest one another? Most assuredly, but not to the extreme degree that they hated the Lord. The Christ was hated, because He refused to comply with or accept the religious rule of that day. Not only did He differ with the sects but He condemned them because of the difference! The Savior utterly refused to flatter them. He would not patronize their mere pretensions or indulge in sanctimonious displays with them. He condemned their procedures in the temple and predicted its destruction as well as the overthrow of Jerusalem. He denounced their traditions by announcing “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6). The socially elite were antagonized by the Lord. He taught humility and would neither pamper nor humor those who were rich. The Lord was a living example of the fact that Christianity recognizes neither race nor class.

Eventually the godly saints who composed the Lord’s church were also hated because they fought Judaism tooth and nail! They wielded the sword of the Spirit in proclaiming the church not as a rival sect, but as the one true institution. They did not leave the impression that the church was only one such institution among many. They did not hesitate to proclaim salvation in only one name, one way, one creed and one body. They believed, taught and defended the fact that accountable persons are lost without the Gospel.

The Greek philosophers of that day, the Epicureans, Stocis, Cynics and Eclectics, disliked one another but despised the church of the Lord. The early church vigorously fought the philosophers, who were usually egotistical and self-centered. Paul taught, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (Galatians 6:14). The first century saints were diametrically opposed to paganism. The Roman Empire in over-running various nations had made a habit of swallowing up their religions, and thus inculcating their views into them. The early church utterly refused to be swallowed by their dogmas. Rome loved power but Christianity placed all power with Christ.

The same firm stand that produced hatred for the Lord and the early church is sorely needed today! Christians are not to willfully make enemies but if the stringent demands of the Gospel are fully proclaimed it will often do so. The church is coming to be accepted in many quarters today because the clarion call of the Lord’s Gospel is not ringing as it should. The church today can only be a great voice for righteousness if she firmly proclaims the

Gospel as the only hope for a sin-cursed world. Let us thank God and take courage that we have access to that soul-saving message. Let us utilize every opportunity and becoming means to proclaim it!

“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil...If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” (John 7:7; 15:18-19).

W. D. Jeffcoat

Prayer Requests

Jon Mooney (Caimee Anne’s father) had a heart attack last Tuesday morning. He was taken to ORMC. An angiogram showed blockages and Jon underwent surgery to have two stents put in. Keep him in your prayers for a full recovery.

Linda Straw (Scot’s mother) has been diagnosed with dementia. Scot is requesting prayers for her.

Concerns Update

Mary Brown will begin therapy on her torn rotator cuff either this week or possibly next week. Keep Mary in your prayers for a full and pain free recovery.

Trina Plyler, who was in ICU in a hospital in Ft. Worth last week, was feeling better and was looking to be released to go home soon. Continue to keep Trina in your daily prayers.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Maria Baeza; Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; LaDonna Chism; Cathy Eastwood; Mark Erwin; Melida Frazier; 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.

The “**78th Annual Meeting of the Pecos River Encampment**” June 17-19 Family Camp—No Dorms; June 19-25 Full Camp. Paul Shero is the Speaker. Their flyer is posted on our bulletin board.

Thank You

Dear church, Thank you very much for all of your prayers, cards, phone calls and texts. They are all very much appreciated. I am not having the dizziness, but still having imbalance. Some days are very good. My granddaughter Audrey told me to “Thank You” for the card you sent when she was down with Covid. She said it made her happy knowing prayers were said for her. Sincerely, Sylvia Campos

Office News

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 weeks 5/7 & 5/12 are: dried pasta and canned meats.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Recently a learned man made the following statement. “We worship our work; we work at our play; and we play at our worship.” We believe this is a fair appraisal of folk in our time. Too often that which is first is, alas, last!

WE WORSHIP OUR WORK

The workaholic syndrome is finally becoming recognized for the curse that it is. Responsibilities to family and our Lord’s church and its works are being neglected by men and women whose careers have become the most important thing in their lives. When one’s job demands excess time and energy so that God and the family suffer neglect then one becomes guilty of sin! He has made his work his god.

WE WORK AT OUR PLAY

Adult recreation is big business. Not only do we fish, golf, hunt, jog, ski and play tennis, but each of these activities requires its own special uniform and equipment. This generation is so hooked on recreational activities that they are demanding the church build gymnasiums (family centers so-called) and provide athletic and recreational programs in order to hold them in a church relationship. We now have Church of Christ ball teams and bowling leagues “to keep our folk interested in the church.” More actual work is expended in our “church play” than in preaching the Gospel to the lost in many instances.

WE PLAY AT OUR WORSHIP

Yea, we are dabblers in the religion of Christ. We want our worship in small doses. The attitude of “just enough to satisfy the minimum requirements of the Scriptures” is more widespread than many realize. One hour, once per week, is the worship program of the majority of those who claim to be New Testament Christians. Our Lord demands that we give Him the first and the best of our time, efforts, and substance. He will accept no less. When one gives less, his worship is vain! Only when we offer all that we are and possess will He accept our worship and reward our service!

—W. R. Craig

May 7, 2023

A.M.

P.M.

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

Allen Weakland
Jon Roemisch
Allen Weakland
Allen Weakland
Travis Ruckman
Jeff Wesson
Jacob Carson

Allen Weakland
Oliver Hernandez
Allen Weakland
Allen Weakland
David Baldwin
Richard Siler
Tommy Garcia

Lords Supper

Scot Straw
Jr. Munoz
Steve Easlon
Jackie Perkins

Bill Ryan
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209 *Deacon:* Craig Wesson 934-4633 —
Pulpit: John Wood 413-7444 — *Table:* Bill Ryan 352-4871 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson
934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Collections:* Bill Ryan

Sunday AM

“Job Well Done” (Joshua 22:1-9)

Sunday PM

“Greatest Days” (Genesis 1:1)

Our Records

Bible Class... 60

Morning Worship... 101

Evening Worship ... 61

Wednesday... 88

Contribution... 3,767.95