

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Lost – While Preaching the Truth!

Paul described the preaching pleasing unto God as being the “manifestation of the truth” (2 Corinthians 4:2). The charge is that those who proclaim the Word of the Lord “preach the Word!” (2 Timothy 4:2). Jesus’ own statement regarding the Word, in His prayer to the Father, was that “Thy word is truth” (John 17:17). So precious is truth that Solomon stated, “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Proverbs 23:23). The sum statement of the Christ, in this area, is that “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). The servant of the Lord then believes the truth, loves the truth, lives by the truth, and teaches truth to those in the world around him. When he stands in the classroom, or in the pulpit, his work is to declare God’s truth!

These things being so, and truth being the honored commodity that it is, it is all the more striking to realize that one can teach the truth, and still be lost! Indeed, one can, should such be possible, never utter anything but truth, and the end result can be displeasure in the sight of God, and separation from Him eternally. When those statements are made, one can with some justification ask, “But how can it be? I thought truth saved, and that one preaching truth would be doing the noblest work of God!” It will be well for us all to consider the matter of truth, and how that one really cannot take pleasure in knowing that “I’ve only taught truth. I have never taught error” - if that is as far as it goes. The study of truth, the responsibilities we have regarding truth, goes farther than that.

Preaching Only the Positive

Suppose one decides, “I will speak only positive things. I will speak no negative words.” Some have thus decided, and we fear for their souls. Paul’s example is that of God’s servant declaring *all the counsel of God!* (Acts 20:27) The Lord commissions no one to take a (positive only) message, or a (negative only) message; but all the message of God is to be proclaimed to men. Should one decide to speak only the positive, he would have to shun two of the items said to make the Word profitable; yes, two of the items designed by God to furnish a man completely (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

God has placed the positive and the negative in His will to man. Can a preacher/teacher be anymore arrogant and presumptuous than to decide, on his own, that he will cut into the Word and preach only that portion that he desires? He can choose to do so, and following that positive-only course, always preach truth, but still be lost! The Lord instructed Ezekiel concerning the warnings to be given the wicked, there is the negative for you and pointed out that when one fails to thus warn, in keeping with the words of the Lord, the wicked man will die in his sin, and “his blood will I require at thine hand!” (Ezekiel 3:17-21). Yes, one can preach an all-positive, all-truth message, and still be lost because he ignored other portions of God’s Word!

The Failure to Speak Out!

There is another aspect of this that needs our attention. One can always speak the truth in his/her teaching, and still be lost because in critical times when God’s servants need to raise their voices all the more, the servants were silent! Once more, the Lord condemned the silence of that teacher whose duty it was to give warning (Ezekiel 3:17-21). Every teacher and preacher faces this matter each time the teaching situation presents itself. There are the ever-present issues facing the saints of God; such issues as alcohol, drugs, the dance, profane speech, immodest dress, etc. especially concerning our young people, as they begin to establish values many will maintain, for good or ill, throughout all their lives, and what will we do? Will we be silent on these issues or will we boldly condemn all such ungodliness?

Vital issues are always arising within the kingdom itself. These are issues because some begin to pursue a line contrary to the Word of God, and due to their teaching and influence, saints are affected in a hurtful way. Such issues spread across the brotherhood, and are of concern throughout the world! In recent times we have seen false views on God's marriage laws, false views on the Holy Spirit, false views concerning God's grace, and false views concerning whether God has children in denominational systems. Now, what will the preacher/teacher do? Will he, because of the influence of prominent members, prominent preachers, schools, papers, etc., or because of concern for his own job, his salary, his supporters, etc. now grow silent regarding these issues? Will he be silent, and yet still proclaim, "But I always preach truth?" He should know, and we all should know, that one can always preach truth, and still be lost, because he did not declare all the counsel of God because he did not give brethren warning, because he did not reprove and rebuke (2 Timothy 4:2), and because he kept back portions of the Word of God that were profitable unto men (Acts 20:20).

—Bill Jackson

Prayer Requests

James Weaver is still in the Covenant Hospital in Lubbock, TX. He had a liver biopsy done Tuesday, May 3rd. The family is requesting our prayers that nothing will be diagnosed that will delay or hinder any further treatments in getting James' hip replaced.

Meta Troutz (Kim Guynn's mother) is still at Madison Health Resort—Room #303. Meta had to have a blood transfusion. The family wants to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and snack basket. Continue to keep her in your prayers.

Dottie Fisher had Mohs surgery to remove a squamous cell carcinoma from her hand Tuesday, May 3rd. The surgery went well.

Also, Dottie's infant great granddaughter, **Aubrey Rains**, was taken to the ER at ORMC Monday morning, May 2nd with virus symptoms and dehydration. Aubrey received medical attention and was able to go home Tuesday evening.

Concerns Update

Betty Branson is feeling much better now. She received the correct diagnosis and is on medication that seems to be working. Her pain was gall bladder related.

Linda Horton got back from MD Anderson Friday, April 29th. Her consultation with the doctors there was not very encouraging. They recommended that she continue with her oncologist here in Odessa for further treatments. Keep Linda in your prayers.

Kelsey Gomez's gall bladder surgery last week went well. She is a co-worker of LaDonna Chism and a new mother of a few weeks.

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; Kelsey Gomez; 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; Matthew Quiroz; Elvia Ruckman; Montrella Ruffner; Andrew Schwarz; Brendon Shook; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; James Singleterry; Bob Spurlin; Meta Troutz; James Weaver; Lisa Wells; Toya Zambelli

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Neva Carrigan; Ruby Davis; 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

"Strengthening the Family" Group #2 will meet Sunday evening following our evening services to pick up cards due to it being Mother's Day.

Ladies, there will be a **"Baby Shower"** for Stacy Ruckman Saturday, May 21st from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Bonnie Sorenson's home. Selections are at Target and Usborne Books (See Larriat McGhee for the

Our Elders have scheduled a **"Ladies' Breakfast"** for all the ladies on Saturday, May 21st at 9:00 a.m. Ladies please set aside this time to come and enjoy a good breakfast and fellowship. The elders are doing the cooking and cleanup!

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Who was "breathing out threats against the disciples of the Lord"?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

The Apostle Peter had a vision of a sheet full of animals.

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.

NOTICE: Jr. Munoz's truck was broken into while parked in our parking during last Sunday's service, May 1st. The robber broke out the passenger side window and took Julie's purse. This note is to remind our members not to leave anything of value in your vehicle during our services even when the doors are locked. But, if you have no choice, please make sure the item cannot be seen from the outside.

Thank you,

The Elders

May 8th, 2016

Announcements

Song Leader

Sermon

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Second Prayer

Closing Prayer

A.M.

Allen Weakland

Craig Wesson

Allen Weakland

Allen Weakland

Dex Dennard

Rudy Ochoa

Jeff Wesson

P.M.

Allen Weakland

Cody Wesson

Allen Weakland

Allen Weakland

Isaiah Armendarez

George Warren

John Wood

Lord's Supper

West...

Bill Tolbert

Jeff Wesson

Trinidad Wood

East...

Charles Wood

Josh Weakland

John Wood

Scot Straw

Communion

(In Library)

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

Mother's Day"

(Exodus 20:12)

Sunday PM

"Stability of Our Day"

(Isaiah 33:5-6)

Our Records

Bible Class... 73

Morning Worship...137

Evening Worship...70

Wednesday...84

Contribution...\$3,906.45

