

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## *But Can You Defend It?*

It is easy for one to say that he or she believes something. Much more effort is involved in defending that belief. Peter exhorted, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...” (I Peter 3:15)

One claiming to be a Christian ought to be able to defend his or her belief. Yet, many religious discussions end with a person saying something like, “Well, I just believe it, that’s all,” without giving proof for what they believe. There are two problems with that. First, we have the ability to know spiritual truth. Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32; cf. 2 Peter 1:3). Thus, we ought to back up our faith. Second, how can one ever lead a lost soul to Christ without presenting the evidence for faith? Jesus “shewed himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs” (Acts 1:3). The support for the claims of the resurrected Christ was there. We can search the Scriptures and find the evidence that undergirds the faith once delivered (John 5:39; Jude 3). Just saying to a non-Christian, “That’s how I feel and that’s enough for me” is really NOT enough for that person. The lost can’t be led to Christ by human feelings. Everybody knows that feelings can deceive. That’s why the “witnessing” and “testifying” in vogue in the denominational world is totally ineffective in leading souls to salvation. There is only one source that is inherently powerful enough to bring souls to Christ and that is the Gospel (Romans 1:16). In the New Testament, when Christians lived faithfully to God and backed up their faith with the teaching of the Gospel, multitudes were saved from their sins (Acts 12:24; 19:20).

You say that you believe in God. Can you defend that belief? You say that you are certain that the Bible is God’s written revelation to mankind, completely inspired by God and sufficient to guide mankind to eternal life. What proof do you have of that?

Mankind has developed the idea that faith is equated with blindness. Perhaps it comes from a misunderstanding of Paul’s statement that “we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Wrongly, people elevate feelings to the same status as faith. “I may not be able to give you book, chapter and verse for what I believe, but I just feel that I’m doing the right thing.” But why can’t you give book, chapter and verse? Is it because God has not given us a solid enough foundation for faith? Could it be because you don’t want to put forth the effort to fortify that faith with study of the Word? Could it be because you can’t find book, chapter and verse for some of the things you believe and practice? The fact is that faith is not blindness. To the contrary, “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is substance and evidence, not blindness. We do not have to wander around in spiritual darkness, hoping that we’re right. We must seek the deeper faith that comes from studying God’s Word (Romans 10:17). We must be able to teach others God’s truth so that they can be saved in eternity.

All are challenged: “examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own

selves” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Know why you believe what you believe and know it based on what God has written in the Bible. Is faith based on feelings, the beliefs of parents, other humans, catechisms, creed books or manuals, the faith that God established? Sure, you believe it, but can you, in the pages of God’s Word, defend it?

—Mike Gifford

### ***Prayer Request***

**Allen and Christy Weakland** were under the weather last weekend with flu-like symptoms. Christy felt better in a couple of days while Allen’s hung on a little longer.

**Alex Martinez** underwent surgery on May 3rd, at MCH. He had four toes on his right foot amputated due to diabetes. Both, Alex and Barbie are in need of prayers at this time.

**Roberta Hamil**, an Eisenhower long time shut-in member, was put under home hospice care in January and her daughter said her health has been declining rapidly ever since. She turned 99 years old in March. Please keep Roberta and her family in your prayers.

**Petra Baca** (Sylvia’s mother) had a setback last week and is in need of prayers.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Terresia Weaver** has been diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer. She will be undergoing surgery, but no date has been set at this time. She needs prayers that all will go well.

**Doug Guynn** was in Ft. Worth last week undergoing his cancer treatments.

### ***Prayer List***

Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Petra Baca; Betty Branson; Betty Brooks; Bill & Mary Brown; K. C. Caulder; 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 Rodriguez; 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 ... (Fill in the Blank)

According to his dream Nebuchadnezzar would, in his humbled condition, dwell with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the field and eat grass like the \_\_\_\_\_.

Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer ...

(b) It was “the disciple whom Jesus loved” who recognized Jesus when He caused them to catch so many fish. (John 21:7)

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

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

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

## 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.

Also, there is a “Gift Card Table” set up in the east foyer for **Megan Wells** (Josh’s daughter) for the month of May. She graduates from Midland High on May 28th.

### I Can’t Hear You

I’m sure we all agree we live in a loud world. Noise everywhere, sometimes the only answer is to put on those little headsets to drown out the noise, well more noise. Have you ever tried to talk to someone wearing a set of those things? It’s impossible! They have to take them off so they can listen.

You and I can talk to God because God listens. Our voices matter in heaven. There is no need for us to worry that God may not listen to us. Even if I stutter, stumble or don’t know for sure what I need to say or how to say it, God still listens.

Sometimes those around us may not listen because what we have to say is not important to them. But with God, what we have to say is always important to Him. God listens. Carefully listens. Our words don’t stop until they have reached the very throne of God! James writes, “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.”

Our prayers can move God to change the world. I admit I don’t understand the mystery of prayer, but thankfully I don’t need to. This much is clear, when we speak, God listens, and when God listens, things start to happen! That is an amazing thought!

–Philip Sims  
Haskell church of Christ  
Haskell, TX

### May 9, 2021

#### A.M.

Announcements	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw
Sermon	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Oliver Hernandez
Second Prayer	Cody Wesson
Closing Prayer	Jr. Munoz

#### P.M.

Jeff Wesson
Jacob Carson
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Scot Straw
Don Easlon
Charles Wood

Lords Supper

Craig Wesson

Scripture Reading:

Cody 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... 69  
Morning Worship... 96  
Evening Worship ...57  
Wednesday... 61  
Contribution... \$4,606.03