

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Go to the Church of God's Choice

There is a statement that is commonly heard throughout our society that says: "Go to the church of your choice." You have probably seen it (or similar statements) emblazoned on various bumper stickers, signs, posters and billboards. This statement pre-supposes that there is a choice to be made in picking a church. For many people, this type of statement makes perfect sense—"it stands to reason!"

Within our communities, whether they be small towns or large cities, there are many different "houses of worship." In many places, you can find a number of "churches" - three, four, five, six or more, all located within a short distance of each other. On one corner, you might see the church building where the Methodists meet, across the street is the imposing place where the First Baptists worship," while down the avenue is the large, impressive Roman Catholic cathedral. This supposedly presents the member of the community with a wide number of choices to be made when they start planning where to place their membership and attend worship services.

Many of these "churches" consider themselves "Christian," meaning that their members at least maintain some sort of belief in Jesus Christ and recognize the Bible to be a source (however limited) of spiritual guidance and encouragement. Yet, these same "churches" also represent many different religious groups which vary greatly in their own beliefs, doctrines and practices. For example, Roman Catholics strongly believe that it is necessary for infants to be baptized while Baptists do not.

The very existence of these different "churches" (religious groups) inevitably leads to some questions: 1.) Which "church" (group) should I select to place my own membership and attend? 2.) Which "church" has members that share my own personal convictions? and 3.) Which "church" is correct in its teachings and is right with God? These are all valid questions! They need to be answered.

The many choices that are presented to the common person have the potential to lead to great confusion and frustration. Some people deal with this confusion by saying (and believing) "It doesn't matter where you go!" or "One church is as good as another!" Trying to rationalize their decision, they may add: "All roads lead to Heaven" or "All roads lead to the same destination." Those who believe this way frequently maintain that the only thing that really matters is attendance at some type of "church."

This has ultimately led to the statement: "Go to the church of your choice!" We are told to select the "church" that pleases us. We are encouraged to go to the group that makes us feel good and happy—which best meets our "felt needs." Still, the questions linger!

However, when we go to God's Word, the Bible, we discover that our choice is quite simple and straight-forward. There is only *one* correct choice to be made! In his letter to the brethren at Colossae, the Apostle Paul writes: "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18, NKJV). The "He" that Paul is referring to here is Jesus Christ, Notice that Paul states that Christ is "the head of *the* body, *the* church". He repeats this idea later on in this same chapter in verse 24 and also explains that "*the body*" is "*...His body*." Thus, Paul emphasizes here, as he does also in Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4, that Christ's body, the church, is singular, not plural!

Christ is *not* the head of "a body" which is "a church." Rather, He is the head of "*the* body" which is "*the* church." The church, therefore, is *not* one of many but the *one* and *only*! There is

no other! It is the “...one body” mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:4; and Colossians 3:15.

So, we come to the obvious and necessary conclusion that there is only one true church! As we see all the choices that are available, we do not have to be confused or frustrated. On the contrary, we can be confident as we select the church that teaches the truth—the truth that is in God’s Word. One of the key attributes of the one, genuine church is that it is “...the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).

Let us choose to become members of the church that is headed by God’s precious Son, Jesus Christ and is ruled by His teachings. ***Let us: GO TO THE CHURCH OF GOD’S CHOICE!***

—Erik Smith

Concerns Update

Glenna Callendar is on oxygen 24/7 and will be homebound until she can get a portable oxygen tank where she can get out and hopefully be able to attend worship services once again. Please continue to keep Glenna in your daily prayers for her return to good health.

Cathy Eastwood is back home after having been in Lubbock for the past two months having physical therapy. She will continue her rehab in the Odessa/Midland area. Continue to pray for Cathy’s full recovery.

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; Jon Mooney; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Joe Morrison; Rudy Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Ramiro Rodriguez; Linda Straw; Linda Tate; Jurlean Warren; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; Ron Williams; John Wood; Ronny Wood.

Eisenhower’s Homebound....

Glenna Callendar; 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

Robbie Butler would like to thank the members here at Eisenhower for all the prayers, cards and concern for her family while Cathy was away in Lubbock undergoing her physical therapy.

Office News

Next Sunday (May 28th) we will have a “**Potluck Luncheon**” after our morning service followed by our P.M. service. Our visitors are welcome to join us.

Our “**2023 Summer Series**” begins June 7th and goes through August 30th. Our first speaker

will be Sean Prather from Monahans. We have 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”** weeks 5/21 & 5/28 are: rice and vinegar (plastic bottles only)

A Plea for New Testament Christianity

There are two rival conceptions of the church. One holds that the church is a conglomerate of sorts, being composed of all Christ-believing individuals, regardless of the “church” to which they belong. The other view maintains that the church is composed of every saved individual on earth, but only those who have done just what the Bible requires are, in fact, saved. Which view is correct?

It cannot be denied that Christ desired unity among His followers. In the shadow of the cross, the Savior prayed that His disciples might be one, so “that the world may believe” that He was sent from the Father (John 17:20-21). The early church was a model of this prayer for unity. “The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul” (Acts 4:32). Sadly, the religious world today is anything but united. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of competing religious bodies, each vying for our attention and subsequent allegiance. Most, if not all, teach conflicting doctrines and practice varying rituals. From a rational vantage point, it seems the only unity that can rightly be claimed for all such endeavors is superficial at best.

In contrast to the present state of affairs, there is a beautiful simplicity to Christianity. Paul delineated the heart of the Gospel in these words: Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). When the same apostle wrote Romans, he indicated that we submit to a “form” of this teaching (Romans 6:17) when we die to the un-restrained practice of sin, are buried with Christ in baptism and then raised to walk in “newness of life” (Romans 6:2-4; Colossians 2:12). All who have done so are members of the body of Christ, the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 24). The name God would have them wear is “Christian” - nothing more, nothing less.

“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:26).

—Brandon Renfroe

May 21, 2023	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Jacob Carson	Cody Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Tommy Garcia	Caleb York
Second Prayer	Don Easlon	Charles Wood
Closing Prayer	David Baldwin	Craig Wesson
Lords Supper	<u>Larry May</u>	Bill Ryan
	Richard Siler	Communion
	Jackie Perkins	(In Library)
	Travis Ruckman	

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

“Pride of Babel”
(Genesis 11:1-9)

Sunday PM

“Give Me This Mountain”
(Joshua 14:6-15)

Our Records

Bible Class... 48
Morning Worship... 112
Evening Worship ... —
Wednesday... 70
Contribution... \$4,162.25