

Eisenhower Church of Christ

4 Reasons We Know the Church is Important to God

It seems to be a belief that is growing more and more prevalent all the time. People see the importance of God, they see the importance of a relationship with God, and they see the importance or a connection of some form to Christianity; but despite it all they see absolutely no need to have any connection with the church. Their mantra is “give me Jesus but not the church.” The church holds no value to them whatsoever. In their minds they can be Christians just as much on their own, in the isolation of their homes, in the serenity of nature, or anywhere in the world as they can connected to a local church. It is the anti-religion religion, and it ignores everything we know about God’s mind concerning the church. The church is not important to people who do not see the church as God sees the church. But there are at least four reasons why we know the church is important to God and why it should be important to us as well.

The church was in God’s eternal wisdom. That means that even before time ever began God had the church in mind. It was always a part of His plan. It was not an afterthought or a “plan B” because His mission had failed. When Paul was addressing the revelation of God’s mystery he said that God’s eternal purpose was accomplished through the church making God’s manifold wisdom known to the world (Ephesians 3:8-11). How could something that God had in mind through the recesses of eternity be unimportant?

The church was promised by God. From the time that sin entered the world God set a plan in motion that would culminate with His church being established and redemption being made possible. And with that plan in mind throughout history God would repeatedly give reminders about the coming of that church. Just read passages like Isaiah 2:2-4; Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14; Joel 2:28-32; and other passages and see the plan God had in mind. The church was at the center of God’s redemptive plan throughout history and He repeatedly reminded man of it. How could something that God promised throughout time be unimportant?

God sent His Son to die for the church. When Paul met with the Ephesians elders one last time he tried to encourage them and remind them of the gravity of their responsibilities as elders. In that context he said these words. **“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood”** (Acts 20:28). The church was important enough to God that He was willing to send His Son to die for it. How could something God was willing to let His Son die for be unimportant?

God promised to save the church. Just as Noah’s ark was God’s chosen vessel of salvation from the flood that destroyed the world, the church is God’s chosen vessel of salvation from the condemnation of sin. We know that because Christ is said to be the Savior of His body, the church (Ephesians 5:23). Therefore, if I am in the church I am among the saved because God has promised to save the church. How could something God promised to save be unimportant to anyone?

There is absolutely no doubt that the church is important to God. He designed it to be an essential part of our lives. So, when we say that the church is not important, we are minimizing something for which God sent His very Son to die. The church may not matter to a lot of people in this world, but there is no doubt that it definitely matters to God.

—Andy Brewer

Prayer Requests

John Wood made a trip to Lubbock on Monday, May 18th for another infusion treatment. Please continue to keep John in your daily prayers.

Cathy Eastwood's surgery was re-scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th in Albuquerque, NM. Robbie Butler has requested prayers for her.

Bill Brown started another round of chemo infusions Friday, May 22nd. He will have one per week for three weeks. Keep Bill in your prayers that he sees much improvement from the treatments.

Jr. Munoz has started taking the chemo pill again for his cancer. Keep him in your prayers.

Concerns Update

Jeff Wesson is recuperating from broken ribs. Keep him in your prayers that he heals quickly.

Julie Munoz is home from the hospital and is currently on prescribed medication. She is doing well at this time.

Teri Armentrout (Devida's niece) came through her elbow surgery just fine. She will have a few weeks of physical therapy to regain full strength in that arm.

Prayer List

Jack Aaron; Brian Basaldua; Bill Berry; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Maddie Clay; Lavern Couch; Kim Drake; Jazmine Duron; Cathy Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Thomas Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Winford Hambright; Irene Hernandez; Leo Holloway; Letha Hooper; Vertie Howard; Devin Jones; Linda Latch; Liz Leach; Betty Leeth; Charles Lewis; Jed Martin; Alyssa May; Ora McAfee; Krysta McMullen; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Jr. & Julie Munoz; Maxine Newton; Tanya Nichols; Rudy Ochoa; Juanita Orosco; Trina Plyler; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Danna Robertson; Janelle Shirley; Susan Simmons; Princess Tadashi; Mark Thompson; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Jackie Wallace; Lindsey Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Jay Wesson; Tom Wilcox; Carolyn Wilkerson; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

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

Youth

Bible Quiz Question (Multiple Choice)

Who commanded the sun and moon to stand still when the Israelites fought the Amorites? (a) God; (b) Joshua; or (c) Moses

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

Suffer the little children and forbid them not, to come unto me.

Events

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

Office News

The New Mexico Christian Children’s Home has temporarily cancelled all grocery pick-ups at this time. However, donations can be made to the home online at NMCCH.org. Gathered items will be collected ASAP.

Food for thought...

You can’t go in the “wrong direction” and end up at the “right destination”.

Emergency Contact Numbers

If any of the following situations are happening in your life, please dial the appropriate numbers:

If you are unsure that God loves you, dial John 3:16

If you need faith, dial Hebrews 11.

If you need comfort, dial 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

If you are worried, dial Matthew 6:25-34

If you feel depressed, dial 1 Peter 5:6-7

If you hear gossip, dial Proverbs 26:22-25

If you feel overwhelmed by some force, dial 1 John 4:4

If you are unsure about your current friends, dial 1 Corinthians 15:33

If you love worldly things in life, dial 1 John 2:15

If you love money, dial 1 Timothy 6:10

If you are focused on succeeding in this life, dial Matthew 16:26

If you want to be fruitful in life, dial Jn. 15:1-11

If you want advice for your investments, dial Matthew 6:19-21

If you aren’t sure about participating in something, dial Philippians 4:8

If you are experiencing sorrow or pain, dial Revelation 21:4

If you are being persecuted, dial Matthew 5:10-12

If you are being tempted to sin, dial I Cor. 10:13

If you have sinned, dial I John 1:9

If you feel you can’t be forgiven and saved, dial 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

If you are in trouble and need to be saved, dial 1 Peter 3:21

All numbers can be dialed directly. If as a Christian you need to speak with someone directly, please bow your head in prayer now. God is standing by.

–Brett Petrillo

Sunday, May 24th, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus spread in Odessa and surrounding areas, the Eisenhower Church of Christ elders have made the decision to “Live Stream” all their services on Facebook since we can have no more than 10 people in attendance. Below are our scheduled services:

Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m. **(at Church Building & FB Live Stream)**

Sunday Evening Service -- 5:00 p.m. **(FB Live Stream)**

Wednesday Evening Bible Class -- 7:00 p.m. **(FB Live Stream)**

Sunday AM

“Caleb Followed the Lord Fully”
(Numbers 14:24)

Sunday PM

“Private Devotions”
(Luke 6:12)

Other Responsibilities: Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990—*Deacon*: Josh Wells 770-6753— *Pulpit*: John Wood 413-7444—*Table*: David Ryan 512-924-0983 — *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons*: Josh Wells 770-6753— *Collections*: Josh Wells 770-6753