

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Blessings of Death

All have endured the grief and sorrow that comes with the passing of loved ones. All feels hopeless. Life seems not worth living. The sunniest days seem as dark as night. The loss to some becomes so overwhelming they sink into a depressive state. Some never fully recover. For those who perish outside of Christ there is no hope in death and for those who lose a loved one who is lost in sin there is a struggle to find comfort and closure.

This is not so for the Christian! For the child of God, death is but “a means to an end.” Death for the Christian is simply an open door to the joy, rest, and rewards of faithfulness. With the recent passing of a loved one, we have occasion to reflect on what God, through His Word, has revealed to us about death, especially for the Christian.

God indicates the death of the faithful is a gathering together with the righteous. We read of the three great Hebrew patriarchs being gathered together in death. God revealed to Abraham, “*And thou shalt go to the fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age*” (Genesis 15:15). As we continue to read the history of the father of the faithful we learn the complete fulfillment of God’s words: “*And these are the days of the years of Abraham’s life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen [175] years. Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people*” (Genesis 25:7-8). A similar epithet is given of Isaac: “*and Isaac gave up the ghost and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days*” (Genesis 35:29). In the land of Egypt, nearing the end of his days, Jacob called his sons to his side and said, “*I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite*” (Genesis 49:29; cf. 25:9-10; 50:12-13).

The gathering together of these men certainly could not refer to their burial in the same place! Remember, Abraham was from Ur and his father was buried in Haran. The bodies of none of these men was together with their people in that sense! Their souls, however, were gathered together with the righteous souls of the saints. Luke wrote of the beggar Lazarus who died and was “gathered together” with his father Abraham; the rich man could only see them from a distance having been gathered to a different place (Luke 16:19-23). Luke’s record of Peter’s words clearly indicates that Judas was not gathered together with the righteous of God, but went “*to his own place*” (Acts 1:25). For the Christian, death is a gathering together—a reunion of the faithful of God to await the day of reward!

God refers to death of the faithful as a great victory. Looking forward to the resurrection Paul wrote: “*So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”*” (1 Corinthians 15:54-55). The victory, Satan (1 Peter 5:8) once had over man in death has been swallowed up by the resurrection of Jesus and the promised resurrection of all men. The victory that our adversary had over us by the fear of death, man being separated from the tree of life because of sin (Genesis 3), has faded from the hearts of the righteous! We have gained the victory through Christ! In Him, we have won the victory over the adversary and the grave!

God considers death to be a very precious moment for those who belong to Him. “*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints*” (Psalm 116:15). In death we are removed from temptation. In death we are taken to the bosom of Abraham; to the paradise where the souls of God’s faithful await the end of time (Luke 16). In death, the faithful rest

in their faithful works (obedient deeds) which stand as a testimony of their belonging to God (Revelation 14:13).

How sad it is to lose those we hold so dear. How dark the brightest day appears when our love ones slip away in death. How wonderful to consider the blessings of death! In death we shall be gathered together with the faithful of God. In death we have no fear, for we have gained the victory in Christ! For us death is a very precious thing, for it is the open door to the end of our journey.

—Ronnie Scherffius

Prayer Request

Prayers have been requested for **Grace Zuniga**, Jordan's mother who underwent a double heart bypass surgery Tuesday, May 31st to clear two arteries that were severely clogged. The surgery went well and Grace is doing okay.

Mark Erwin, Linda Tate's brother, is having very serious heart problems and is in need of prayers. Please keep Mark in your prayers.

Carolyn Wilkerson had a spinal tap on June 1st. This procedure should shed some light on why she has severe stomach pain.

Elaine Huntington was able to find a surgeon here in Odessa that will perform the treatment that she needs for the really bad pain she has been having. She has an appointment 6/21/22. Elaine is in need of prayers.

Concerns Update

Marisela Garcia's adenoid surgery on the 1st went very well.

LaDonna Chism had to go back to the hospital again last week for pneumonia. After a few days, she was released to go home.

Betty Branson had eye surgery on May 23rd. Her surgery went well. Her doctor was pleased.

Prayer List

Dr. Hank Abrams; Sheila Alcazar; Maria Anaya; Mary Anchondo; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Philip Garza; Hattie Gilmore; Doug Guynn; Elaine Huntington; Mildred Lee; Vanessa Machuca; Ora McAfee; Glenda McMillan; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Richard Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; Daniel Reyes; David Ryan; Lisa Salas; Reda Sowell; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; Carolyn Wilkerson; Charles Wood; John Wood, Julia York.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna Callendar; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ...

What prophet asked if a leopard could change his spots?

Last Week's Quiz Answer...

Elijah proved the power of God in a contest with Baal worshipers on Mount Carmel. (1 Kings 18:19)

Bible Knowledge... TAKE SEVEN....

There were seven, or seven pairs, of every clean animal on the ark. (Genesis) 7:2-4)

Samson had seven braids in his hair. (Jud. 16:13)

Passover lasted for seven days. (Exodus 12:15)

Events

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

How To Make a Church Come Alive!

You know me, I tend to lean toward the positive and look on the “up-side” of things. So, when I came across a bulletin article on “How to Kill a Church”, I thought, “Instead of looking at the negative, why not emphasize the positive.” So, here are a few suggestions on “How to Make a Church come Alive.”

COME. And when you do, come early and stay late.

ATTEND YOUR BIBLE CLASS EVERY SUNDAY.

ATTEND EVERY SERVICE. Whether it be Sunday morning/evening, Wednesday evening or a Gospel Meeting.

COME EVEN IF YOU HAVE COMPANY. Bring them with you, if they are willing, but if they refuse, tell them: “I’ll see you after services.”

SING. Whether you can “carry-a-tune-in-a-bucket” or not. Sing! And, sing with the Spirit and understanding.

GIVE. And give generously, purposefully, liberally and cheerfully.

SUPPORT THOSE WHO LEAD. Look for good in them. Consider each proposal without bias. Offer positive/constructive thoughts.

INVITE ANYONE AND EVERYONE TO ATTEND SERVICES WITH YOU.

COMPLIMENT, BE HAPPY, LAUGH, ENCOURAGE.

There! I feel better already. Let there be life in the church! We’ll all be the better for it!

—Ben Mereness

June 5, 2022

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

TBA
Cody Wesson
TBA
TBA
Steven Easlon
Gary Loving
David Ryan

P.M.

TBA
Jacob Carson
TBA
TBA
Jr. Munoz
Don Easlon
Scot Straw

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading

Larry May
Jon Roemisch
Richard Siler
Jacob Carson

Tommy Garcia
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209—*Deacon:* Bill Ryan 352-4871
Pulpit: Bill Ryan 352-4871—*Table:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332—*Song Leaders:* Larry May
638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* Craig Wesson 934-4633— *Collections:* Craig Wesson

Sunday AM

“TBA”

Sunday PM

“TBA”

Our Records

Bible Class... 63

Morning Worship...90

Evening Worship ...51

Wednesday...45

Contribution.....\$3,737.00