

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Persecution for the Cross of Christ

In Galatians 6:12, the apostle Paul called special attention to suffering persecution for the cross of Christ. Judaizing teachers were compelling Christians to comply with the ceremonial conformity of the Old Law in order to escape persecution from Jewish Zealots. In verse 13 Paul makes the point that the Judaizers were acting out of self-glory i.e., they could boast to other unconverted Jews of how they persuaded Gentile Christian to be bound to the law through circumcision. Paul exclaimed in Galatians 6:14, ***“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”*** Paul’s sole glorying was in the cross of Christ.

Paul’s Perils

Paul had suffered extensively for the cross (Galatians 5:11). Jesus had said that Paul would suffer great things for His name’s sake (Acts 9:16). Paul’s tribulations included false accusation and slander (Acts 24:5-6). Paul’s list of difficulties was long (2 Corinthians 11:24-28). But the amazing thing was that though persecution brought pain, it also brought gain; from affliction came advantage. In Philippians 1:12 he wrote, ***“But I would ye should understand, brethren that the thing which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel.”*** How truly wondrous are the amazing ways of God! Cruel tortures touched his body (Galatians 6:17 but not his soul. Only Christ could touch his soul (Galatians 2:20).

From Paul’s time until now it has been the lot of God’s people to endure dangers, toils, snares, vexations and uncounted sorrows. Many and cruel are the torments of Satan. But, happily, reproaches for Christ’s sake are badges of honor (1 Petr 4:12-14).

Christians Suffer Now

Today, soldiers of the cross must endure hardness (2 Timothy 2:3). There are times “When the heaven that is over our heads seems to be brass and the earth under us to be iron and we feel our hearts within us sink.” In such times we must trust God though we cannot trace Him; and follow God though we cannot fathom Him. Psalm 46:1 helps to stiffen our resolution, ***“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, will not we fear, though the earth be removed and though the mountains be carried unto the midst of the sea.”***

The Christian’s Consolation

Our consolation is in God for He ***“comforteth those that are cast down”*** (2 Corinthians 7:6; Psalm 42:5, 11). Our consolation is also drawn from the contemplation of our Lord’s own grief. He might well ask, “Was ever there a grief like mine?” Hebrews 12:2-3 declares, ***“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: when for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame...For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”***

Persecution weans us from this world by causing us to long for a better world. A world where there are no sorrows, disappointments, heartaches, corruptions, etc. May the day soon dawn when we are delivered from all earth’s infirmities (Revelation 7:17; 21:4). In this life, sorrow and the saint are often married, but heaven shall divorce the two.

It has been said that worldlings are born crying, live complaining and die disappointed. Not so with the Christian! As we continue to live in a trouble-tossed world we will be found sharing Daniel's confidence that ***"All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou"*** (Daniel 4:35)?

If needs be, let every Christian suffer nobly for the cross of Christ.

—Bill Dillon

Baptism

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as we witnessed **Beth Ann Easlon** obey the gospel call last Sunday morning, May 30th. Beth made the good confession and then was baptized into Christ by her father-in-law, Don Easlon. Please give our new sister in Christ a warm welcome as she begins her new life in Christ.

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Roberta Hamil**. Roberta passed away on Thursday, May 27th. Her public visitation will be at the Hubbard Kelly Funeral Home on Thursday, June 3rd—5-9 p.m. & a funeral service at 10:00 a.m. on Friday; then Roberta will be taken to the Dawson County Cemetery in Lamesa for a graveside service and laid to rest. She was 99.

Also, our condolence goes out to Sylvia Campos and her family in the loss of her niece, **Diane Salinas**. Diane lost her battle with cancer on May 27th in Houston. Her viewing was from 1-9 pm Wednesday, June 2nd at the Martinez Funeral Home and services were held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday morning at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Odessa.

Concerns Update

LaDonna Chism got the cast off her foot June 1st and was fitted with a boot. Her foot is still broken, but just needs to heal now. Her next doctor's appointment is in four weeks.

Prayer List

Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Betty Brooks; Bill & Mary Brown; K. C. Caulder; LaDonna Chism; Andrew Durfee; Jazmine Duron; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Irma Gomez; Paul Gunn; Cody Guynn; Doug Guynn; Liz Leach; Mildred Lee; Betty Leeth; Miguel Lozano; Alex & Barbie Martinez; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Corina Rodriquez; Gary Schwulst; Bill Tate; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; Charles Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

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.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ...

Of whom was it predicted in the Old Testament: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You"? (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1)

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer

Paul says...tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3,4)

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

Some Are on Their Way

All need to heed John's warning, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

Apostasy is a process; a movement away from Christ. Some of our dear friends, brother and sisters are now in the process of falling away. Their love of Christ and His church have been overturned and Satan and his world beckons.

Apostasy (falling away) is a process that is easily observed. Absenteeism, a listless spirit, unconcern for spiritual things, lack of sacrifice are all symptoms of a fatal illness which shall cause spiritual death. Diminished hours of prayer, little or seldom reading of the Bible, lack of desire for the fellowship of fellow Christians are sure signs that one is on one's way to infidelity.

Satan deceives those in a state of digression. He causes them to think they have things under control. Out-bound souls are often heard to say such things as: "I know I need to change—and I'm going to do so soon," but they don't. Or say, "I know my danger and I know what I must do; I am not going to allow myself to go too far; I will get it together before that happens to me." Yes, there are those who make such statements when exhorted to repent. Records may indicate that they were present for worship once, or three or four times in a calendar year. Who are they fooling but themselves? They are no longer on the way to apostasy—they have arrived there.

Maybe you can help someone who is in the state of departure. You know they are missing worship services, that their interest in other things is exceeding their interest in things of the kingdom. Remind them of who they are—a child of God. Bring the wandering ones back to Jesus

– Selected

June 6, 2021	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Cody Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Joshua Weakland	Jackie Perkins
Second Prayer	Tom Sorenson	Richard Siler
Closing Prayer	Larry May	Jacob Carson
Lords Supper		Bill Ryan
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	Scot Straw	Communion
	Jeff Wesson	(In Library)
	Jaxon Straw	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209 – *Deacon:* John Wood 413-7444 – *Pulpit:* John Wood 413-7444 – *Table:* Bill Ryan 352-4871 – *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990 – *Recording Sermons:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 – *Collections:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“What You Should Expect from a Christian.

(Philemon 1:17:22)

Sunday PM

“He Shall be Great”

(Luke 1:32)

Our Records

Bible Class... 66

Morning Worship...101

Evening Worship...48

Wednesday...54

Contribution...\$3,851.00