

Eisenhower Church of Christ

God Accepts No Substitutes

One of man's most common practices is substitution. Sometimes it is of necessity and sometimes the substituted product is better than the original, but, substitution is its place. The wise may substitute for the ignorant, but the ignorant cannot substitute for the wise. Instead of making every man suffer the consequences of every sin, God substituted His own Son as a sacrifice for our sins in order for us to escape the penalty of them (Hebrews 5:8-9). But man may not substitute for God. In spite of this truth, man has always tried to substitute his own ways for God's commands. That effort has always failed and always will.

Man Attempts to Substitute Sincerity for Truth

The doctrine, "It makes no difference what you believe, just as long as you are sincere," is a vastly popular one. Saul of Tarsus was a sincere, religious man worshiping God according to his conscience, but was "chief of sinners" at the same time (I Timothy 1:15; I Corinthians 15:9). Sincerity does not save. Only the truth makes one free (John 8:32).

Men Substitute Prayer or Sacrifice for Obedience to The Truth

It was that very substitution that cost Saul the throne of Israel. "*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams*" (I Samuel 15:22). Paul wrote, "*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin ye became the servants of righteousness*" (Romans 6:17-18). Only obedience to the doctrine of Christ will save us. No amount of sacrifice or good moral living will take the place of it.

Christ is the Savior to all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9). The Bible teaches that faith in Christ, repentance from sin, confession of Christ as God's Son, and baptism are necessary for the remission of sins are necessary before the promise of salvation is ours (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:10). Prayer is of no avail if we neglect to obey these commands. Paul was penitent believer, had confessed Christ and was praying. Yet he was told, "*Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins*" (Acts 22:16). If these commands are neglected, even our prayers are abominations (Proverbs 28:9). If we neglect to obey the plain commands of God while we have opportunity in this present world, we are destined for certain eternal punishment (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

Many Substitute the Precepts of Men for the Plain Doctrine of Christ

We cannot hope for a happy resurrection unless we remain true to Christ's doctrine (I Timothy 4:16). Those who teach any other Gospel or doctrine rest under the curse of God (Galatians 1:9). Those who are deceived by these false doctrines are likewise condemned (Matthew 15:9, 14) and a curse instead of a blessing will be a surprising disappointment to them in the Day of Judgment (Matthew 7:22-23). The only sure preventive measure against false doctrine is to "search the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Modern Religion Substitutes Entertainment for True Worship of God

The items of divinely appointed worship are eating the Lord's Supper, prayer, singing & teaching the Word of God and giving of our means to support the Lord's work. All of these are to be done on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Ephesians 5:19-20). This is a simple system in which all men can participate and glorify God as He has directed. But some have substituted an elaborate system of entertainment by which they glorify themselves. They offer music concerts, puppet skits, dramas and human testimonials in place of God-ordained worship. One of the very first lessons man was ever taught was that God will not accept a substitute for an item of worship. Abel offered a blood sacrifice as God directed (Hebrews 11:4). But, Cain offered a substitute sacrifice and God rejected his (Genesis 4:5).

God commands, ***“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him”*** (I Corinthians 16:2). That financial arrangement for support of the Lord’s work is divinely appointed, but man substitutes his own devices such as car washes, garage sales and carnivals in order to please himself. God will accept no such substitutes. Jesus defined how God is glorified. ***“I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do”*** (John 17:4). God is glorified only by doing His will as He has directed. Jesus did not substitute His own work for that of God’s God has never accepted a substitute for what He commanded. We dare not substitute our own ways for God’s today. He simply will not accept them and we will be lost for so doing.

—Alan E. Stout

Prayer Request

Judy Wells (Josh Wells’ grandmother) is having serious health issues and not doing well at this time. The family has requested prayers for her.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell, Bill Bundick; Marie Bundick; Mitchell Bundick; Sissy Bundick; Linda and Sonny Coggins; John Cole; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Marjorie Foster; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Lon Howard; Janis Laminack; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Tanya Nichols; Trina Plyler; Charles Simmons; Cindy Starcher; James Stephens; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; James Weaver; Judy Wells; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; John Wood; Jack Wright;

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

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...

What did the Philistines do to Samson when they captured him?

Last Week’s Bible Quiz answer...

Saul of Tarsus was going to Damascus when he had a vision of Jesus.

Events

Watch ***“In Search of the Lord’s Way”*** every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the ***“Speaking the Truth in Love”*** program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

The ***“Pecos River Family Encampment”*** is June 18th-24th. Mike Shero from Alaska will be doing the preaching. If you plan to go this year, please check with the office about getting the necessary forms that need to be completed and mailed or hand delivered. A copy of the info is posted on our bulletin board.

The “Tipton Children’s Home” will be here August 1st–3rd for their food drive. They have given us a list of the **Needed Items:** Assorted Cereal, Assorted Soups, Presweetened Kool Aid, Sloppy Joe Sauce, Canned Chili, Granulated Sugar, Miracle Whip, Squeeze Mustard, BBQ Sauce, Canned Pears, Sliced Peaches; **Supply List:** Liquid Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue.

Office News

A “Two Page Update” for the Church Directory is on the table in the east foyer. This info will bring your directories current. Please pick up a copy.

The Odessa Christian School has several teaching positions available that must be filled for the next school year. They need teachers for the Pre-K, Elementary and Middle School classrooms. OSC is also in need of an Office Secretary. If you or anyone that you know would be interested in any of these positions, please call the Odessa Christian School office 362-6311.

Thank You

I would like to thank all the men who helped move our furniture back to our house. We appreciate all that you do for us.

Love you all bunches,

Glenna and Elder

Thoughts on Heaven

Jesus said “In My Father’s house is many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.”

(John 14:3)

Paul said “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18)

Peter said “God has caused us to be born again to a living hope; to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (I Peter 1:3-4)

John saw “...the holy city; New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven...having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper (Revelation 21:2-11)

Having these images of heaven could anything on earth compare? Could any earthly trouble hinder you from completing your journey there?

—Guy Orbison, Jr.

June 11th, 2017

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Jeff Wesson
Cody Wesson
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Josh Weakland
Jacob Carson
Rudy Ochoa

P.M.

Jeff Wesson
John Wood
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Tony Marrs
Rudy Ochoa
Bill Ryan

Lord's Supper

West...

Jr. Munoz

Larry May

Bill Tolbert

East...

Charles Wood

Bill Ryan

Josh Wells

Tom Sorenson

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson 561-5302; *Deacon*: John Wood 413-7444; *Pulpit*: Bill Butler 362-7486; *Table*: Tom Sorenson 631-2518; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Chris Butler 362-7486; *Collections*: Chris Butler 362-7486

Sunday AM

"Expectations of Christianity"

(Romans 6:21-23)

Sunday PM

"Learning from Hypocrites"

(Matthew 23:1-3)

Our Records

Bible Class... 82

Morning Worship...136

Evening Worship...74

Wednesday...76

Contribution...\$4,911.50