

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## The Danger of Not Studying the Bible Properly

A Gospel preacher related the story of preaching a funeral for a member of the congregation where he preached. He was given the member's Bible so that he might use in the funeral service; something the member had put in the Bible more than sixty years previous. The preacher's statement to me was: "It was an unused Bible." I did not know the member nor am I judging the motives of the one mentioned, however, it may be that the problems facing us today stem from unused Bibles or Bibles not studied properly. As we consider the problem of improperly studied Bibles, consider some important consequences.

**No Growth:** A failure to study the Bible properly means that proper growth does not occur. Peter tells us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). When the Christian fails to grow, he is susceptible to apostasy (Matthew 13:16-22), is a carrier of bad attitudes, and will engage in bad actions (Galatians 5:19-21). He becomes carnal (1 Cor. 3) and creates problems in the church. Consider the congregations that have been disrupted as a result of members who had not properly studied their Bibles. How many programs of work are presently being hindered because of this? How many preachers, elders and members have become discouraged because they have to suffer attacks from members whose failure to properly study the Bible has caused them to act immaturely?

**Lost Souls:** A failure to study the Bible properly means that souls are lost. The Christian is to be an evangelist (Mark 16:15; Acts 8:4; 2 Tim. 2:2). One cannot teach that which he does not know. How many Christians will be lost because they refuse to carry out the great commission? Many church members have the "we hired the preacher to do that" mentality. The Bible does not teach this, but they do not know this because they have not properly studied it.

Not only will the man who fails to properly study the Bible not teach the lost, he will not seek to restore the erring (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20). It is scary to think of the members of the church who never visit and seek to restore the erring members and are unwilling to do so, even when asked by the elders. Unfortunately, some elders are as bad as these members. In some congregations one may become spiritually weak and die while the elders meet and talk about who is missing the services! What a shame!

How many elders and members visit the preacher and his family to encourage and strengthen them? I have been preaching for forty years and only one time has my family been visited by the elders to encourage and strengthen us. It is taken for granted that the preacher and his family are spiritually strong. How often do the elders visit the families of fellow elders? These families struggle with difficulties as do the other families in the congregation. They need encouragement from their elders. This line of thought could continue through every group of people in the congregation. When a failure occurs in this area it often comes from improperly studied bibles!

**No Discernment of Good and Evil:** A failure to properly study the Bible means that the difference between good and evil is not discerned (Hebrews 5:12-14). One must use what he knows in order to avoid evil. One reason many church members drink alcoholic beverages, dance, gamble, wear immodest clothing and engage in other acts of sin is because they do not know enough Bible to "abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). One who does not study for himself will not be able to "resist the devil" (James 5:7). The moral climate in our nation attests to the accuracy of this matter. From the White House, and throughout our nation, people do not know the difference between good and evil. Isaiah sounded a warning that needs to

be heeded in our day: “Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter” (Isaiah 5:20).

When the preacher told me the story of the unused Bible I was saddened, then became angry. I thought about all the harm the Devil was doing to those who have been bought with “precious blood” (1 Peter 1:16-17). I am also saddened by those who do not care enough to study the Bible and make application in their lives. Let us be motivated to learn all we can about God’s Word and use it in our daily lives. If we do this, we will grow, souls will be saved and good and evil will be discerned. Study your Bible!

—James E. Rogers

### ***Prayer Requests***

Kirk McFarland has requested prayers for his daughter, **Leigh Ann**. She has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will undergo chemo therapy then undergo surgery.

Prayers are requested for **Aisha Garcia**. She is 14 years old and attends Bonham Jr. High; a classmate of Devida’s grandson. Aisha has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Perry Jo Wesson** is still in NICU. She is off the feeding tube and doing well.

**Marilyn Upshaw** was released from the hospital last Saturday and is home now.

**Glenda Driver** is in Room #530 at Midland Memorial Hospital. She is still on oxygen and is in need of prayers.

**Daniel Eastwood** was able to come home on May 31st after having undergone a week or so of physical therapy. He is doing well.

### ***Prayer List***

Wayne Anderson; Maria Baeza; Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; LaDonna Chism; James Drake; Glenda Driver; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Becky Gillespie; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Cheri Hodges; Lon & Lana Howard; Shane Lester; Charles Lewis; Juan & Estella Morolez; Joe Morrison; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Linda Straw; Jurlean Warren; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; Ron Williams; John Wood; Natalynn Wood; Samantha Woody.

### ***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.

### ***Office News***

Our “**Vacation Bible School**” is July 24th-26th at 6:30—8:00 pm, Monday thru Wednesday. The theme is: “The Flood”. Please invite your family, friends and your neighborhood children

The items requested for our “**Food Pantry**” this week and next week are: **canned meat & salt**

## Rarely Mentioned

This may be the most unpopular subject to preach on, yet it is mentioned in the Bible numerous times. We hear the word in conversation regularly. It is used in swearing a lot. Some use it to describe their lives. An alcoholic described his life as “a living hell.” A woman married for only two years said her home was a “hell on earth.” Those descriptions of life may be quite accurate. You see, Hell is a place where God isn’t. A life not honoring God and His word may seem like hell. (1 Sam. 2:30). But if we renew our mind daily with the word of God, life can seem like it’s “Heaven on earth”. (Rom. 12:2)

Because it has not been preached, few people seem to believe in Hell anymore. Since Jesus talked about it, we need to talk about it too. The New Testament says a lot about Hell and Jesus said the most. He said, **“Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell.”** (Mt. 10:28). He talked about some being cursed and cast into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. (Mt. 25:41). He said, **“Whoever says, “You fool!” shall be in danger of hell fire.”** (Mt. 5:22).

Undoubtedly, some are experiencing a “hell” of their own making here on earth. But the Bible speaks of hell in the future. Jesus called it “everlasting punishment” and “outer darkness.” a place where there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. He called it a **“furnace of fire.”** (Mt. 13:42) He called it a place **“where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched” and a “place of torment.”** (Mk. 9:44; Luke 16:24) And God doesn’t want anyone to go there (2 Peter 3:9).

When we depart this life; it gets really interesting. For the unbeliever this life is the best it ever gets. But for the believer this life is the worst it ever gets. The next life is far better for the believer. (Phil. 1:23). From now on it only gets better. But for the unbeliever it only gets worse and worse. (Mt.25:46) God has done everything He can to keep us out of hell. He sent His Son to die for us. (Jn. 3:16) Unfortunately it’s popular to not believe God’s report. But when people leave this life, they’re going to find out that the Bible is true. Many will be sad because they chose to deny God’s Word and treat God like He is a liar. They chose to believe something else, thus robbing themselves of the greatest things in life and eternity.

By the grace of God, we won’t do that. We choose to believe the glad tidings and all the good things our good God has given us in Christ.

Jesus’ own words underscore the importance that people know there is a Heaven to be gained and a Hell to be avoided. He said, **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life and there are few who find it.”** (Mt. 7:13-14)

—Danny Tunnell

### June 11, 2023

Announcements

Song Leader

Sermon

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Second Prayer

Closing Prayer

### A.M.

Jeff Wesson

Cody Wesson

Allen Weakland

Jeff Wesson

Jr. Munoz

Don Easlon

Jacob Carson

### P.M.

Jeff Wesson

Oliver Hernandez

Allen Weakland

Jeff Wesson

Jackie Perkins

Cody Wesson

Charles Wood

### Lords Supper

Caleb York

Steve Easlon

Bill Ryan

Travis Ruckman

Richard Siler

Communion

(In Library)

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547 *Deacon:* John Wood 413-7444 — *Pulpit:* David Ryan 512-924-0983 — *Table:* Richard Siler 556-2151 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 — *Collections:* Tommy Garcia

**Sunday AM**

*“Place of Refuge”*  
*(Joshua 20:1-9)*

**Sunday PM**

*“Fellowship of the Faithful” Pt 2*  
*(Heb. 12:18-24)*

**Our Records**

*Bible Class... NC*

*Morning Worship... 111*

*Evening Worship ... 59*

*Wednesday...Summer Series*

*Contribution...\$4,763.25*