

Eisenhower Church of Christ

A Backwards People

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20)

Some atheists pity us for believing ancient myths and lacking the philosophical “enlightenment” they possess. They make statements to the effect that Christians think critically and logically except when it comes to religion. This group believes us mostly harmless but pitifully ignorant.

Others express rage at our faith and practice. One atheist argued that people should not be allowed to attend religious gatherings before the age of eighteen. Others argue it should be illegal to practice religion altogether. Though people have committed many evils in the name of religion, by lumping all so-called believers together, atheists have thrown out the proverbial baby (Christianity) with the bath water (false religion). Their adherents are growing in numbers and fervor. The general sentiment is that we are a bunch of backwards thinking bumpkins.

Satan leverages these criticisms and pressures to discourage us from doing God’s bidding. No one like to be criticized for their convictions, but we must not allow such to derail our efforts in His kingdom. Though these things pose other potential dangers, we will consider two that seem especially destructive. One of these will render us inactive while the other will render us ineffective. We must avoid both.

First, hearing these harsh criticisms can cause timidity and a sense of futility. It can be hard to speak out when we expect to be excoriated or dismissed for speaking the truth. When people begin with an adversarial posture, it may seem futile to speak in His name. Moses was reluctant to go into Egypt because he felt inadequate to the task and was certain the people would not listen. God had to assure him that He would provide the message, the means to speak it, and the confirmation of the message (Exodus 3:10-14; 4:1, 10-17). Jeremiah was likewise hesitant to embrace the call because of his youth (Jeremiah 1:6). As with Moses, God emboldened Jeremiah to speak the truth (Jere. 1:7-10). Paul told Timothy not to be ashamed of the testimony of Christ and assured him that God has not given His people a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7-8). As Jesus said, we ought to fear falling out with God more than falling out with humanity (Matthew 10:26-33).

The second major hindrance produced by these criticisms can push us to the opposite extreme. Where some get frightened by critics, others respond in anger towards them. It is easy to become angry when people speak ill of us. However, we must not lash out in anger. As Paul stated in Colossians 4:5-6, we must walk with wisdom towards them and be in control of our speech. We must confidently proclaim the truth, but we must do so in love (Ephesians 4:15). We must give a defense of our hope, but we must do so with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15). This is a delicate balance when being slandered, but we cannot allow any corrupting (corrosive) speech to come from our mouths, but our every word must aim at being constructive (Ephesians 4:29).

This demands we view our detractors as Jesus did. Looking out over Jerusalem, the place of His impending murder, Jesus had pity on His enemies and their plight (Luke 19:41-44). Rather than be filled with rage, Jesus saw sinners as sheep without a shepherd needing rescued (Matthew 9:36). We must love our enemies and never repay evil with evil (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:17). Though they think we are backwards, it is they who confuse evil for good, darkness for light, and bitter for sweet. For this, woe is on them and we must try to rescue them (Isaiah 5:20; James 5:19-20)

—Todd Houston

Sympathy

Prayers are needed for Sylvia Campos' daughter-in-law's family who lost three children in the Uvalde Elementary School mass shooting last week. Also, keep in your prayers all of the other families that lost their children. Our sympathy goes out to all these families.

Prayer Request

Gloria Craig is scheduled for surgery tomorrow to have a benign tumor removed.

Janice Smith has been dealing with some health issues since December and is in need of prayers.

Please keep **Paul Gunn** in your prayers. He had a short hospital stay recently; is home now but not doing well.

Concerns Update

Grace Zuniga (Jordan's mother) had a successful heart bypass surgery on May 31st. They removed all the tubes on June 6th and she was expected to be released to go home on the 7th or 8th. Grace is doing well.

Carolyn Wilkerson had a spinal tap on June 1st. She was scheduled to get the results on Thursday, June 9th. Keep her in your prayers.

Elaine Huntington was able to see a doctor sooner than she expected due to the extensive pain she is having. She should get some answers soon.

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; Mark 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

Last Week's Quiz Answer...

Jeremiah was the prophet that asked if a leopard could change his spots.

Bible Knowledge... TAKE SEVEN...

Joshua and his army marched around Jericho seven times on the seventh day with seven priests blowing seven trumpets. (Joshua 6:3-4)

Seven were chosen from the disciples to distribute food to widows (Acts 6:3)

Events

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

What is the Church of Christ?

Church has come to mean different things to different people, depending on their association with or knowledge of a particular denomination.

With more than three hundred different kinds of churches, it has become necessary for each to be identified by some word other than “the church.”

This was not always so. During New Testament times, and for centuries, there were no denominations. The church of Christ existed in its purity.

Church is first used in the Bible in Matthew 16:18 when Christ said, “*On this rock I will build My church.*” It occurs again in Acts 2, and from there is used often to the close of the New Testament. It literally means “the called-out body.”

This body consists of people who have been “called out” of the darkness of sin and into God’s marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). The churches of Christ advocate for the religious unity of all followers of Christ. In a divided religious world, the Bible is the only possible common basis upon which people who love God can unite.

God calls through the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14). When the apostles preached the good news of Christ, they called for people to believe and obey God’s Word. When a person did so, he was added to the Lord’s church. At that time, one became a member of the body of Christ, which is the church of Christ.

The Bible nowhere teaches that a person was saved and then later joined the church of his choice. Salvation and membership in the Lord’s church were obtained by the same action—obedience to the terms of Christ as stated in His gospel.

Jesus said, “*He who believes and is baptized shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16). This is God’s calling us through the gospel. Each apostle preached the same Gospel.

The church is composed of those who wear only the name of Christ (Acts 11:26). The church consists of those who believe and teach only the doctrine of Christ (3 John 1:9-11). The church is that body of believers who obey only the command of Christ, their Savior (Hebrews 5:9)

—Southside’s Salute

June 12, 2022

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Allen Weakland
Jon Roemisch
Allen Weakland
Allen Weakland
David Ryan
Larry May
Craig Wesson

P.M.

Allen Weakland
Cody Wesson
Allen Weakland
Allen Weakland
Gary Loving
Richard Siler
Jeff Wesson

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading

Don Easlon

Caleb York

Josh Weakland

Cody Wesson

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

““Standing Fast”

(I Thessalonians 3:6-10)

Sunday PM

“Jesus, Our High Priest”

(Hebrews 5:1-11)

Our Records

Bible Class... 54

Morning Worship...84

Evening Worship ...67

Wednesday...NC

Contribution.....\$5,207.75