

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Obedience: The Only Basis of Acceptance with God

Since man is a free moral agent, He has the option to obey or disobey God. However, if one would be accepted with God he must choose to obey; there is no other basis of acceptance. By obedience is submission to the demands or requests of one in authority. In this case, the one in authority is God.

There has been a decline in concern as to whether or not we produce a “thus saith the Lord” for what we believe and practice. “Book, chapter and verse preaching” is not demanded by the elders and members as it once was. In fact, this type of preaching is actually criticized in widening circles. A growing number of our preaching brethren can be credited with this condition. As they drink deeply from the pens of today’s theologians and court the capers of denominational neighbors, they cease to believe in bible preaching, and would not do it if demanded of them. The bottom line of this condition is that obedience to God is not all that important anymore, and too many “love to have it so” (Jeremiah 5:31).

The deterioration of concern relative to obeying God may be attributed to a number of things. It is evident that the following do have some influence.

1. *We Have Come to Rely More Heavily Upon World Wisdom.* With an increase in the level of our secular education we tend to think we are smarter than we really are, even to the point of thinking our way of doing things may be even better than the Lord’s way. We forget that Paul said, “the world by wisdom knew not God,” and that God’s way of saving many by the Gospel is through “the foolishness of preaching” (1 Corinthians 1:21). Paul goes on to say, “the foolishness of God is wiser than men.” and that “not many mighty, not many noble, are called” (verses 25-26).

2. *Some Are Led to Believe That the Speaker is More Important Than the Message Spoken.* We are attracted to people who are kind, gentle, congenial and friendly. We like to be complimented, made to laugh, to be entertained. We prefer to hear that which makes us feel good, rather than that which may make us feel badly by calling attention to our sins. In view of this, whatever is said may be accepted with little or no thought as to whether or not it is in accordance with God’s Word. People have been known to say, “such a nice person as brother so-and-so just could not say anything wrong.” We should be reminded however, that Paul warns that those teaching a contrary doctrine may “by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Romans 16:18b).

3. *Our Society Just Does Not Like the Idea of Obedience, Generally Speaking.* Obedience to civil law is lacking; schools have discipline problems; children disobey their parents, and the world of denominationalism obeys fewer and fewer of God’s laws. We have allowed the spirit of disobedience to affect us, thereby losing sight of the fact that acceptance with God is completely dependent upon obedience.

4. *A Desire for Recognition Has Had Its Impact.* Some have obviously taken on a spirit of compromise in order to be numbered among the “in crowd,” which is of liberal persuasion. Those who are liberal minded do not look kindly upon those who contend for unquestioned obedience to God’s will as it has been revealed through the inspired Word.

It matters not how widespread disobedience is, it remains that if we would be accepted by God, we must obey Him. When king Saul tried to justify his failure to “utterly destroy” the Amalekites, saying the people brought back “the spoil, sheep and oxen,” to sacrifice, “Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Samuel

15:22). Saul's disobedience was called "rebellion," and disobedience amounts to the same thing today...Obedience is so important that *salvation cannot be obtained without it!* This we learn from the fact that Christ learned obedience himself and "became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:8-9).

In order that we may not lose sight of the importance of obedience to God, we should constantly keep before us that greatest of examples of complete obedience to the heavenly Father, I speak of Christ, who "...humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8). *If We Would Be Accepted With God, The Same Spirit Of Obedience Must Be Exemplified In Us.* -Walter W. Pigg, Jr

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Dottie Fisher**, a former member of Eisenhower. Dottie passed from this life on Thursday, June 2nd in Kingwood, TX. There will be a family graveside service in Odessa sometime in July. Keep this family in your prayers.

Prayer Request

Charles Wood is still not feeling well and low on energy. He has been fighting the effects of pneumonia and bronchitis.

Robbie Butler was diagnosed last Tuesday that she has a bad case of the shingles, which can be very painful. Keep her in your prayers.

Analia, baby daughter of Casey & Gabriella Cleveland, was taken to Urgent Care on June 8th and was diagnosed with RSV. Also, **Gabby** has an upper/lower respiratory infection. Prayers are requested

Concerns Update

Gloria Craig's surgery on Monday morning went well. She had no complications. Gloria stayed overnight just so they could monitor her.

Arthur Campos (Sylvia's husband) had two successful cataract eye surgeries in the past two weeks.

Carolyn Wilkerson did not receive any additional information from her spinal tap last week. Everything is exactly as the doctor had diagnosed.

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; Janice Smith; 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 Knowledge "Take Seven"

Jesus fed "The Crowd" with seven loaves of bread. (Matthew 15:34).

Naaman was healed of leprosy by dipping into the Jordan River seven times. (2 Kings 5:14)

Events

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

Unity in Jesus

The Bible teaches that there is unity in Christ for those who are obedient believers. Jesus prayed for the unity of believers in the shadow of the cross. Those who walk in the light have fellowship with Christ and one another. The Lord's church is different from the ecumenical movements of men. Men's movements can and will fall apart and fail—many long for fellowship. However sincere, the desire for fellowship cannot erase the doctrinal differences that exist in the world. Only a return to the authority of the bible and obedience to the Gospel of Christ can bring about Biblical unity.

A loose gathering of denominations is but a gathering of differences. There is no real unity this way. Unity in diversity is not the one Lord, one faith, one baptism of the New Testament. As long as men have false and distorted concepts of the Gospel, we cannot have the unity for which Jesus prayed.

Some misguided men claim the churches of Christ are now sectarian. They think we left our moorings years ago and are now sectarian because we preach the one Lord, one faith, one baptism. They say they have repented of being this way and give a call to arms to challenge the church's present stance. Such men repudiate their parents, their Bible teachers, and their own preaching of the past. But above all, they run counter to the Bible. The ecumenical jargon of some of our own who gloss over any concern for doctrine is disappointing.

We affirm that there is one church in the Bible and that Christ is its only head. People who are taught the wrong doctrine cannot be baptized right. We are to carry out the Great Commission to the best of our ability. In doing that, we are to preach the Gospel to a lost world. If we do not believe we are right, why preach to the lost? We are not to preach doubts; we are to preach the Gospel of Christ.

We get our authority in religion from the Bible. There are brilliant minds in all the denominations. They do not see the Bible alike for many reasons. Some question the authority of God and wish to impose their own. Others love the praise of men more than the praise of God. Let us not be like them.

—J. Noel Meredith

June 19, 2022	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Jacob Carson	Steven Easlon
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Scot Straw	Caleb York
Second Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jr. Munoz
Closing Prayer	Tom Sorenson	Oliver Hernandez
Lords Supper		Tommy Garcia
Scripture Reading	<u>Cody Wesson</u>	Communion
	Gary Loving	(In Library)
	Oliver Hernandez	
	Jackie Perkins	

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

“A Pilgrims Faith”

(Hebrews 11:8-10)

Sunday PM

“I am the Resurrection & the Life”

(John 11:17-27)

Our Records

Bible Class... 72

Morning Worship...111

Evening Worship ...58

Wednesday...56

Contribution.....\$4,894.00