

Eisenhower Church of Christ

What if We Did Not Have the Bible?

I have heard people say that they could not trust the bible to be the Word of God. Like Jesus' attitude on the cross, may God forgive them for they know not what they say nor what they do. Think with me on what the world would be like without the Bible.

1. We would not know the One Lord God if we did not have the Bible. We could look into the heavens and say something caused these things and we could search for that something through all our wisdom but we would not find Him. Paul stated, ***"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe"*** (I Corinthians 1:21). The people in their wisdom have tried to figure out this universe for all these thousands of years but have been miserable failures. Think of the millions of gods that have been invented and worshipped by men. It is because God has revealed himself that man is without excuse for not knowing him. ***"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them"*** (Romans 1:19). The heavens declare the Glory of God (Psalm 19:1), but the Bible shows us what He says, what He has done and does. His characteristics, and what He wants us to do. We would all be without God and without hope in the world if we did not have the Bible.

2. We would not know the enormity of sin nor the doom of sinners if we did not have the Bible. In all races of men there are standards of right and wrong. All recognize this because of the very nature of man, but the Bible shows us wrong doing is sin which separates us from God. Paul said, ***"Nay I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, "Thou shalt not covet"*** (Romans 7:7). He went on to say that he was alive without the law once: (that is in the state of innocence of childhood) but that when the commandment came, sin revived, and he died. He said the law was holy, just, and good but that sin worked death in him, ***"that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful"*** (Romans 7:13). Paul is stating in this chapter that the law showed the enormity of sin but without Christ there would be no forgiveness of sin. One purpose of the Bible is to show the terribleness of sin and what will happen to one who dies in sin. They cannot go to where Jesus is but according to the Scriptures there is a lake of fire and brimstone where they will be cast (John 8:21; Revelation 21:8).

3. Without the Bible we would not have that wonderful story of the love of God in providing us a Savior who died for our sins. Just as soon as man sinned God began to reveal a scheme for his redemption. The statement to the serpent of the seed of the woman bruising his head was a promise of Christ's atoning sacrifice (Genesis 3:15). Through death Christ destroyed the devil who had the power of death. (Hebrews 2:14). The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). Without the Bible we would not know that ***"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*** (John 3:16).

4. Without the Bible we would not know what to do to be saved. We would not know that we must believe (John 3:16), repent (Luke 13:3), confess Christ (Matthew 10:32), and be baptized (Mark 16:16). We would not know to worship in spirit and truth if we did not have the Bible (John :24). We would not know the items of worship without the Bible, nor how to organize congregations of His church.

The Bible is so important that without it we would be groping in darkness and despair. Why not read it, study it, believe it, and obey its commands. Here you find God, Christ and how to serve them.

—Clifford Dixon

Response

We rejoice with **Alex Martinez** who came forward last Sunday morning confessing his sins and expressed a desire to be a better father and wants to come back to the Lord. Please keep Alex in your prayers that he will remain strong in the service to the Lord.

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **George Hoover** (a former member of Eisenhower). George passed away on Wednesday, June 9th in Dallas, TX. He was 87 years old.

Prayer Request

George Warren fell last weekend and broke his hip. He had surgery in San Angelo on Tuesday, June 15th. His surgery went well.

Prayers are requested for **John and Belinda Katon** (Christy's aunt & uncle) who were involved in a bad car wreck while vacationing in NE. Both were hospitalized in Omaha with numerous broken bones and bruises. John had a punctured lung and had to have a finger amputated. The driver of the vehicle lost his life.

Briana Fuentes (a sister to Josh Weakland's friend) has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure. Briana is in her early twenties and the prognosis is not encouraging. Please keep her in your prayers.

Prayer List

Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill & Mary Brown; LaDonna Chism; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Cody Guynn; Doug Guynn; Katie Hembree; Mildred Lee; Betty Leeth; Alex & Barbie Martinez; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Wanda Perkins; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; 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.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... (True or False)

Jesus was buried in a previously used tomb.

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer

(Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God".

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

Family Devotional

Virgie Bartee and Gloria Craig are hosting a "**Family Devotional**" at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 26th at their home. There may be a need for extra chairs so please bring one or two if you are able. Also, please contact Virgie or Gloria to see what food items are needed.

Can We or May We, Play the Piano?

Our teachers in elementary school were careful to correct us when we asked for permission with "can" rather than "may." The reason we do not use the piano when we worship God has never really been about

ability. Most congregations have one or more individuals talented enough to play the piano or some other instrument. Furthermore, most Christians I know enjoy the sound of instrumental music. We can play, but we may not.

It has always been about permission from God, or yes, authority. The age-old illustrations of Noah's gopher wood and Nadab and Abihu's strange fire still apply. When God gives the specifics in a command, his silence is forbidding. To be sure, there were Christians in the 1st Century church who knew how to play instruments. However, God through the apostles only instructed singing (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16-17, Hebrews 13:15), and that is all that 1st century Christians, 2nd century Christians and 3rd century Christians did in their worship to God. In fact, it was not until the great departure, centuries later, that instruments were introduced into "Christian" worship. Even the great reformers of protestant denominationalism were against their use, not that that proves lack of authority from God. It does demonstrate that the stand against mechanical instruments in worship to God is not some new thing or peculiar to the "Church of Christ" as viewed by many.

Finally, rarely if ever is this one issue the sole dividing point in fellowship. Those who take the "if God did not specifically say, "No," then it's okay, approach will generally go beyond what is written in many areas (i.e., the way in which the church treasury is funded, the role of women, the role of the preacher/pastor/reverend (?), etc.) One that justifies the piano must logically conclude that the full band, additional courses to the Lord's Supper and even dancing in worship would be acceptable. God didn't say "don't, but where is the authority? Or does that question mean anything anymore? To God it does, for *"God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship him in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:24).

—Brent Smith
Trenton church of Christ
Trenton, TN

June 20, 2021	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Oliver Hernandez
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Jackie Perkins	Cody Wesson
Second Prayer	Richard Siler	Don Easlon
Closing Prayer	Jr. Munoz	Charles Wood
Lords Supper		Bill Ryan
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	Craig Wesson	Communion
	Jacob Carson	(In Library)
	Josh Weakland	

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

"Fathers"

(Ephesians 6:4)

Sunday PM

"Our Plight and Relief"

(Romans 5:6)