

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Where Did Baptist Churches Begin?

In 1950, B.L. Bridges, General Secretary of the Baptist organization of Arkansas, wrote an article in their paper under the above title. He was trying to locate the beginning of the Baptist church. Of course, he was fully aware of what the writers of history say about its beginning, but naturally he would like to have found some statement in the Bible that would authorize the existence of the Baptist denomination. We do not blame him at all for trying, but, as is true when someone tries to locate an organization in the Bible that the Bible knows nothing about, he found the wrong proof text. Let us notice the verses that he claims mention the Baptist church. “And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would; and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach” (Mark 3:13-14).

Mr. Bridges reasoned like this: “Mark says that Jesus ordained (made) twelve. This verb is the familiar Greek verb poiein which means “to make.” If Jesus “made twelve,” what did He make? Dr. A. B. Bruce and many others say that He “made, constituted them as a compact body.” The “compact body could not have been a club or lodge. It must have been a church.” Now back off and look at that again. Such profound reasoning! He did not say why this “compact body” could not have been a club or lodge. It just must have been a church. Why must it have been a church? Suppose it was a church, was it a Baptist church? I suppose he supposes it was. If it is alright to suppose this “compact body” was a church. I suppose it is alright to suppose it was a Baptist church. But who wants to face God with nothing but supposition? The text says nothing about any church. Neither the word Baptist nor church can be found in the proof text offered. But it just must have been a church.

If this group that Jesus ordained and sent forth was a church, as Mr. Bridges supposes it was and if it was a Baptist church, as he would like to suppose, it still was not the Lord’s church. It was a long time after this that Jesus said, “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). At the time Jesus made this statement His church was yet to be built. Yet He had ordained these twelve a long time before this. We know, therefore, that the Lord made no claim to this group as to being His church. Out of his own mouth, Mr. Bridges has proved that the Baptist church is not the church of Christ. Now look at the reading. “He ordained twelve that they should be with him and that he might send them forth to preach.” Does that sound like He was organizing a church? It seems one would have to be looking for something that is not there in order to find it.

### Notice another statement in the article

***This same church was in existence on Pentecost. There were about a hundred and twenty members and there were added unto them those that were being saved. If the church did not already exist on the day of Pentecost, how could any have been added to its membership?***

No one denies that there was a church on Pentecost. That was the day the Lord did what He had promised when He said, “I will build my church.” The second Chapter of Acts definitely proves this. When people were baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38) (which Baptists do not believe) the Lord added them to His church. It takes quite an imagination to suppose that this

was a Baptist church, when we consider the fact that what they did in obeying the Lord has always been denied by Baptists. Mr. Bridges says: “Baptist churches began with John the Baptist and with Jesus.” Yet John was not in the group that he says was the first organized Baptists church. Hence by his own reasoning it began without either John or Jesus, because John was not there and Jesus said he would build His later. John said, “He that hath the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, that standeth and heareth him rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy is made full. He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:29).

—Cleon Lyles

### ***Sympathy***

Julia York’s cousin lost her life in an auto fatality last weekend. Her cousin left behind two small children. Julia has requested prayers for their family at this very sad time. Her cousin lived in Mexico.

### ***Prayer Requests***

**Emma Ochoa** tripped over a pair of roller skates at the roller rink last Sunday evening and hit the floor pretty hard. She was taken to the hospital where X-rays showed no signs of any broken bones; just a lot of bruising. Keep Emma in your prayers for a complete healing.

**Doug Guynn** traveled to Ft. Worth on Thursday, June 29th to be there to have an MRI done Friday morning. Please pray for him to have a safe trip and also receive a favorable report from the MRI.

**Tommy Garcia** came forward on June 21st requesting prayers for strength and courage in dealing with problems he was faced with at his work place. Please pray for God’s guidance and direction in helping Tommy make the right decisions.

**Bill Tate** (Linda’s husband) will undergo hip replacement surgery this Wednesday, July 5th. Prayers are requested that all will go well with his surgery and that he has a speedy recovery.

**Stephanie James**, who underwent a delicate neck surgery last Monday morning to repair a couple of vertebrae at the base of her neck. She came through the surgery just fine. Stephanie is the daughter of Kathy and Jimmy Nunley (former members). Prayers are requested for Stephanie to have a fast recovery.

### ***Concerns Update***

It was diagnosed that **Sylvia Campos** has an extreme narrowing of the spinal canal between C-5 to C-7, which may be causing her problem. She will begin “balancing therapy” for six weeks to see what that does. Please keep Sylvia in your daily prayers that she can return to good health.

### ***Prayer List***

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

### **Eisenhower's Homebound....**

Glenna Callendar; James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw.

### **Events**

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

### **Office News**

**Wilene Wright** will be in Lubbock staying with her sister for a month while her house is having some repair work done.

## The Last Day of Your Life

Knowing the end was near, Joshua used his last day of life to address the people of Israel. He began by saying, "*behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth*" (Joshua 23:14). He went on to remind the people of God's goodness in the past and to warn them that unfaithfulness to God in the future would bring ruin (Joshua 23:15-16). He closed by urging: "*Now therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth*" (Joshua 24:14).

How would you spend your time if you knew this was your last day on earth? It is a sobering thought! You do not know when your last day will come. We know the day will come, but we do not know when. There is no guarantee of tomorrow. The Bible compares this life to a vapor that appears briefly and then vanishes (James 4:14). That is why it is important that we make immediate preparation for "the day" when we will "go the way of all the earth" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

The last day you live will likely be much like this one. The things you are doing now are probably the things you will be doing then. The great song writer and preacher Will W. Slater spent the last day of his life preaching and leading singing in a small Arkansas town. One song he sang was "This is Someone's Last Day." Later that night, he collapsed. He died on the way to the hospital in an ambulance. It was a typical day of his life—a fitting end to a life of faithful service to God. If today were to be your last day, would it be a day you would willingly accept as typical of your life?

How have you lived today? Have you used today for good or evil? Have you tried to help or hurt others? Have you sought to grow personally and spiritually, or have you been content to drift? Have you used the day to sow kindness or unkindness? Have you tried to live for God or simply ignored Him? One of my Bible teachers taught me to pray: "Lord, help me to live every day as though it were my last day." That is the real secret to successful living!

If you knew this was your last day to live, would you make changes in your life? This day has been given to you for preparation and self-improvement. Use it wisely!

—Bobby Dockery

### **July 2, 2023**

### **A.M.**

### **P.M.**

Announcements

Don Easlon

Don Easlon

Song Leader

Steve Easlon

Craig Wesson

Sermon

Allen Weakland

Allen Weakland

Opening Prayer

Don Easlon

Don Easlon

Scripture Reading

Jacob Carson

Caleb York

Second Prayer

Larry May

Bill Ryan

Closing Prayer

Richard Siler

Steve Easlon

**Lords Supper**

Jeff Wesson  
Tommy Garcia  
David Ryan  
Caleb York

Jon Roemisch  
Communion  
(In Library)

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Don Easlon 288-5834 *Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 — *Pulpit:* John Wood 413-7444 — *Table:* Jon Roemisch 202-7725 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson — Contributions: Jon Roemisch

**Sunday AM**

*“Christian Relationship”*  
(Hebrews 13:1-3)

**Sunday PM**

*“Doing Honest Work”*  
(Ephesians 4:28)

**Our Records**

*Bible Class... 73*  
*Morning Worship... 109*  
*Evening Worship ... 62*  
*Wednesday... 74*  
*Contribution... \$6,197.00*