

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Plain Preaching

Preaching has helped to shape the destiny of the world. In God's divine economy, He has so willed that preaching the Gospel would have a prominent place in the saving of souls. A preacher of righteousness has a tremendous responsibility. Just as surely as the Lord has some preachers of Truth, Satan has some preachers of error (2 Cor. 11:13-15). Thus, an evangelist of God's Will must not only plant the pure seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11), he must also root up error. As the inspired Paul wrote to his friend Timothy in regard to the weighty task of proclaiming the "good news":

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

It is my firm conviction that the Lord's church has sadly drifted in regard to this matter of plain preaching. If the day ever comes that Gospel preachers fail to clearly expose doctrinal error and immoral living in a very vivid way, we might as well put out the shingle for another full-fledged denomination. That very thing happened to the Christian Church. Today, instead of opposing Satan's inroads, the Christian Church has embraced denominationalism in its fullest sense. Just last week, on "Good Friday" (shades of Rome) the Parker Heights Christian Church here in Odessa was the host congregation for several other denominations in a religious service respecting, a Roman Catholic holiday! This all came about when the Christian Church Disciples' preachers quit speaking against error. I realize that they speak of "exalting the love of God" and "not being so legalistic" in upholding doctrine—but, brethren, the end of such liberal attitudes is the sectarian body called the Christian Church—riddled with modernism and open membership!

Shall the church of the Lord follow this pathway of least resistance? In our desire to become big, respected and powerful shall we forget that the Head of the church, Jesus Christ, demands doctrinal soundness (Tit. 2:1; Eph. 4:15; Gal. 4:16; Gal. 1:6-11) and moral purity (Mt. 5:13-16; Tit. 2:11-14; Phil. 2:15)?

Briefly, let me mention several things that have caused an ever-increasing demand to halt plain preaching.

(1) An un-converted membership: The church has grown phenomenally in a numerical way the past decade. Many of these folks have come out of sectarianism. It is naturally difficult for them to leave all of their former teachings behind. They have listened to preachers who seldom, if ever, spoke out openly against doctrinal error. It is hard for them to accept Gospel preaching with its emphasis for all the Truth and against all error. The New Testament church had trouble with Judaizing teachers due to the very same reason. Those converted from Judaism still tried to hold on to the feast days and ceremonies of the past. There was, however, no compromise on the part of God-fearing preachers of the first century. There must not be any truce with error now!

(2) The prominent place of the church, today: Twenty years ago, meeting places of the Lord's people were usually "on the other side of the tracks." For some reason, in most respects, the preaching was much clearer and more to the point than will be found in the nice, adequate buildings of today. Now I'm not advocating a return to inadequate, poorly located buildings. Neither am I making a blanket

indictment of preachers today—but it is true that we seldom hear the hell-fire and brimstone preaching of ten or twenty years ago! For some reason, many brethren seem shocked when they hear a Gospel preacher “call names” and otherwise boldly dethrone religious error. As long as an evangelist is telling the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), I’d be ashamed and afraid to say anything except AMEN!

—See “Plain Preaching” continued on last page

Prayer Request

Ubaldo Herrera, the minister for the Spanish Congregation, is sick with the covid virus. Prayers have been requested for Ubaldo that he has a quick recovery.

Betty Branson is having spells of weakness and shortness of breath and having some trouble getting around. Please keep Betty in your daily prayers that she gets back the strength needed to be able to walk without getting so tired.

Charles Smith (Eugene Smith’s father) is struggling with some health problems at this time and Eugene is requesting prayers for him. Charles is 92 years old.

Kelton Anderson (Devida’s great-nephew) had to have an oblation surgery on his heart last week due to damage that was done from taking the Pfizer shot. Kelton’s military service will be up in October so he will be going home.

Concerns Update

Terresia Weaver’s CT scan showed the cancer to be a tiny bit smaller than the previous scan. She will continue to take Chemo every 3 weeks Continue to keep Terresia in your prayers that she will see significant improvement each time she has a treatment.

John Wood was able to go home from Encompass. He will continue his physical therapy at home. John is making good progress. Keep him in your prayers for a complete recovery.

Debbie Cox (Dr. Logan Cox’s wife) had a light heart attack last weekend and was possibly facing another surgery to treat the infection in her body. Continue to keep Debbie in your prayers that she can return to good health soon.

Prayer List

Dr. Hank Abrams; Sheila Alcazar; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Mark Erwin; Philip Garza; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Elaine Huntington; Mildred Lee; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Richard Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; David Ryan; Lisa Salas; Charles Smith; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Darryl Williamson; Charles Wood; John Wood, Julia York.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Glenda Hillis; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna Callendar; Ronda Lyne; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Knowledge “Paul Slept Here”

Paul slept in Pisidian Antioch where he and Barnabas “shook the dust from their feet. (Acts 13:13-51).

Paul slept in Corinth where he made tents with Aquila and Pricilla. (Acts 18:1-3)

Events

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

Food for Thought

We discover the joy of living by the kindness we express to others by giving.

Office News

Today is our “**Fifth Sunday Service**”. We will have a “Potluck Luncheon” following our morning service followed by our PM service. Our visitors are welcome to join us.

Our “**Fall Quarter Bible Classes**” will begin Sunday, September 4th. If you are interested in teaching or helping with a class, please sign up on the board in the foyer behind the auditorium. This will help our “bible class coordinators”.

The items requested for our “**Food Pantry**” this week are: self-rising flour, salt and canned foods.

“*Plain Preaching*” continued from page 2.

(3) Preachers who are willing to obey the voice of the people:

In 1 Samuel 15 we read the tragic account of Saul who hearkened to the people instead of God. In Galatians 1:10 we find that we cease to be God’s servant when we bow to the dictates of men. Thus, with Peter we must always say: “*We ought to obey God rather than men*” (Acts 5:29). Certainly, we all like to be popular. An inherent desire within each person is the wish to be well thought of. Preachers are not immune to this inclination. It takes a strong-hearted individual to preach to please the Lord instead of one’s own brethren or friends in the world. When a pay check becomes more important than sound doctrine, a man has ceased to be a servant of Jehovah and has become a hireling to be used by wishy-washy” brethren.

Dearly beloved, these matters have been written in a spirit of love. Love for the body of Christ, for my brethren and for plain preaching. With a prayer in my heart and on my lips, I plead for a return to the soul-stirring Gospel lessons that are able to save our souls!

—Johnny Ramsey

Editor’s Note: The above article was published in Truth Magazine in 1957. The sixty-five intervening years (between then and now) testify to the truth and accuracy of what brother Ramsey said. The sad thing is, the warning *has been* and is sounded, but so very few are listening. Are you listening?

—TJH

July 31, 2022

Announcements

Song Leader

Sermon

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Second Prayer

Closing Prayer

A.M.

Jeff Wesson

Oliver Hernandez

Allen Weakland

Jeff Wesson

Tommy Garcia

Don Easlon

Bill Brown

P.M.

Jeff Wesson

Josh Weakland

Allen Weakland

Jeff Wesson

Isaiah Armendarez

Larry May

Jr. Munoz

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading

Scot Straw

Steven Easlon

Phil Halbert

Bill Ryan

Jon Roemisch

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547—*Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 *Pulpit:* Cody Wesson 934-4646—*Table:* Jon Roemisch 202-7725—*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* Steven Easlon 269-0727 — *Collections:* Steve Easlon

Sunday AM

*“Jephthah’s Vow” #1
(Judges 11:29-40)*

Sunday PM

*“Jephthah’s Vow” #2
(Judges 11:29-40)*

Our Records

*Bible Class... 59
Morning Worship...81
Evening Worship ...61
Wednesday...66
Contribution...\$5,951.25*