

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## The Narrow Way

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told His audience that there are only two ways by which they would pass through life. In Matthew 7:13-14 He described them as the broad way and the narrow way. The broad way, He said, leads to destruction, but the narrow way leads to life. He also said that more people will travel down the broad way than those who find and follow the narrow way. He did not allow for any other options.

We sometimes speak of staying on the “straight and narrow”, a phrase that is derived from the old King James Version, which speaks of the “strait gate” and the “narrow way”. The point, of course, is that there is only one way that leads to Heaven, and it is the path less traveled. This way is a more difficult path, as the old English word “strait” suggests, rather than being an unwavering line, as the modern term “straight” suggests. It is a way of life that submits to the commands of the Lord and eschews the ways of the world.

The most significant aspect of the Lord’s description of the path that leads to life, however, is the term “narrow.” This suggests that there is no room to waver, or to stray to one side or the other. This is not a popular idea in many religious circles today, but the concept of a narrow way is well documented in the scriptures. It is stated in a very powerful manner in the books of Deuteronomy and Joshua, and then is endorsed by the Lord Himself during His earthly ministry.

When Moses was preparing Israel to enter the Promised Land after his death, he reminded them of God’s Law, and was the first to cite the principle of a narrow way. In Deuteronomy 5:32 he said **“So you shall observe to do just as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.”** He repeated this command in Deuteronomy 7:19-20 with regard to the future kings of Israel, and as he revealed the covenant of blessings and curses to Israel in Deuteronomy 28:14. Later, God bound Joshua with the same charge in Joshua 1:7. Just before he died, Joshua repeated this charge to Israel (Joshua 23:6).

This is a powerful statement of what God requires of His people. He expects us to stay on the pathway of obedience to His commands. He does not want us to veer from that path to either side of it. His way is a narrow way, and it is the only way that leads to eternal life. Our Savior made this clear in John 14:6, where He said, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me”** (*emphasis added*). There simply is no alternative to God’s narrow way.

In our time, we often use the terms “right” and “left” to describe a conservative point of view versus a liberal point of view. Even in the church we often use these terms, and depending upon one’s perspective we extoll the one while vilifying the other. Unfortunately, we greatly err when we do so, because we have ignored or forgotten God’s point of view on matters of faith. God does not call us to be conservative or liberal. He calls us to walk straight down the narrow path. He commands us to not turn aside either to the right or to the left.

A reason for this command is that those of a conservative mindset often tend to add to God’s commands, while those of a liberal mindset tend to take away from God’s commands. Doing either of these things violates God’s will. In Deuteronomy 4:2 Moses commanded Israel that they must not add to or take away from God’s commands. John the Apostle restated this

principle with regard to the book of Revelation (Revelation 22:18-19). Therefore, let us stay on the narrow path and let us not turn aside either to the right or to the left.

—Fred Dominguez

### **Prayer Requests**

James & Joyce Drake are requesting prayers for their son, **Brian**. He went to Dallas for a procedure on his back. If the procedure is not successful then Brian will have to have back surgery. Please keep him in your prayers that all will go well with the procedure.

**Jill McAfee**, mother of Allison Moyer's friend, has been diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery Tuesday, July 28th in Lubbock, TX. Please keep in your prayers that the cancer has not spread to her lymph nodes.

**T. J. Wright's** health has taken a turn for the worse. The Hospice nurse said his time is short. Jack & Wilene want to thank everyone in the congregation for their prayers and words of encouragement on behalf of Timmy Joe.

### **Concerns Update**

**Blair Saldana**, who had the malignant kidney removed on July 13th, continually became worse even after going home. He had to be admitted back into the hospital for more testing and it showed that Blair's colon was punctured during the surgery. He seems to be doing better but is still in a serious condition. Blair is Connie Lowe's son-in-law.

**Bryan Jernigan's** surgery went very well. They were able to remove all of the cancer from his kidney. No chemo treatments will be needed. Jeff Wesson and his family want to express their appreciation for all of the prayers on Bryan's behalf.

**Ed Fisher** is awaiting tests results from the tests he had done last week. Keep him in your prayers.

**Connie Lowe** received a good report from her tests on this trip to MD Anderson Hospital.

**Hannah Weakland** is scheduled for dental surgery Monday, August 3rd. She will have her wisdom teeth removed.

### **Prayer List**

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Charles Browning; Neva Carrigan; Steve Chavez; Ruby Davis; Dayton Dennard; Jewell Bettes-Dennard; James Drake; Bernice Eason; Ed Fisher; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Winford Hambricht; Linda Horton; Lon & Lana Howard; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Katie Limer; Connie Lowe; Jack McCarty; Levi McGhee; Flossie Montgomery; Patsy Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Rudy Ochoa; Avery Ojado; Jonathan Pegan; Judy Phillips; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Christa Bella Sellers; Carmen Settle; Brenda Simmons; Nancy Slife; James Stevens; Johna Straw; Marilyn Upshaw; Bré elle Watts; Lisa Wells; Tee Wood; T.J. Wright

### **Eisenhower's Shut-ins**

We have several dear members of this congregation who, because of illness and/or advanced age, are not able to assemble with us on the Lord's Day for Bible Study and Worship as they would like. They mean a great deal to us and we love them very much. These members are: Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Anna Groves; Roberta Hamil; Winford Hambricht; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Caleista Millican; Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

### **Youth**

#### **Bible Quiz Question...**

Who had a vision of a sheet full of animals?

#### **Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...**

Jehu was the fastest chariot driver in the Bible?

## FYI

Denny Wilson is hosting a weekly radio program called “**Christian Take Aim**” at 6:30 pm Tuesdays; [www.thegospelradionetwork.org](http://www.thegospelradionetwork.org). Feel free to please pick up a business card on the youth table in the foyer. Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the “**Speaking the Truth in Love**” program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

## Events

**Fifth Sunday Potluck/Strengthening the Family Reorganization Meeting** — Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Strengthening the Family Group #1’s luncheon will begin Sunday, September 6th.

A “**Men’s Breakfast**” is scheduled for Saturday, September 5th.

There will be a “**Ladies Breakfast**” Saturday, October 3rd in the Annex. The men of the congregation will be doing the cooking.

## Office News

Our “**Food Pantry**” is low on food. It needs to be kept supplied with food and supplies for the children’s homes and those in need especially as we near the holiday season. We appreciate your generous food donations to help meet this need.

The **New Mexico Children’s Home** will be in Odessa Tuesday, September 1st for a food drive. They are requesting **Oatmeal**. Also, we still have coin cans on the table in the east foyer if you would like to save your change for them. The coin cans and food will be picked up at the same time. Monetary donations are also welcomed.

## Thought to Remember...

When one dies of rabies, 1000’s die of alcohol- so we shoot the dog and license the booze.

<b>August 2, 2015</b>	<b>A.M.</b>	<b>P.M.</b>
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	John Wood
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Josh Weakland	Isaiah Armendarez
Second Prayer	Jacob Carson	Rudy Ochoa
Closing Prayer	Josh Wells	Don Easlon
Lord's Supper		
West...	Bill Ryan George Warren Dylan Straw	Bill Tolbert Communion (In Library)
East...	Scot Straw Jeff Wesson Isaiah Armendarez	

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* Allen Weakland 362-1403 *Deacon:* Richard Siler 362-1392 *Pulpit:* Chris Butler 362-7486  
*Table:* Bill Tolbert 381-5564 *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties:* Tommy Garcia 638-2702;  
*Collections:* Tommy Garcia 638-2702

**Sunday AM”**

*“Mighty Weapons in God”  
(II Corinthians 10:3-5)*

**Sunday PM**

*“Jesus’s Take on Mark 10:1-12”*

**Our Records**

*Bible Class...83*

*Morning Worship...118*

*Evening Worship...73*

*Wednesday...92*

*Contribution...\$3,606.50*

