

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Counterfeit, Substitute Religion

When something is not what it ought to be; when it does not meet the test of genuineness, it should fail. Consumers “back-off” quickly from weakened, watered-down, unreliable products.

Should we not re-act the same and more so in Spiritual matters? Should we not expect a church of Christ to be just that, a church of Christ, Biblical in every respect: organization, plan of salvation, worship and work? When such is not the case, should we not demand that correctness be restored and if not, “back-off” from it and no longer give it our consideration and support? Personally, I have no fondness for the counterfeit, the watered-down, or substitutes; I like the “real thing.” Should I be any different in my religion wherein my eternal destiny is determined?

Hosea, the prophet, tells us concerning Ephraim (representing the ten tribes of Israel to the North). “Ephraim is oppressed, he is crushed in judgment: because he was content to walk after man’s command” (Hosea 5:11). We have in the world today two choices in Christian religion: (1) What God designed and built through Jesus Christ His Son and the apostles; (2) What man has designed and built himself: similar, but counterfeit. In viewing denominations (now numbering into the thousands), their churches have a marked-beginning accredited to some man on a certain date many years after Christ established His church. Also, these denominational churches are organized differently from the New Testament church. In their plan of salvation, passive experience is substituted for obedience to the Gospel (baptism is nullified). Their worship is full of innovations and they cast aside the work of the church for social functions.

When we are content to walk after “man’s commands and the traditions of men,” whether written in human church manuals and disciplines, or pressed upon us by some liberal preacher, we can expect to be “oppressed and ultimately to be “crushed in judgment.”

God designed His glorious church through Jesus Christ His Son to be the congregation of the saved. We must take the pattern found in the New Testament (2 Timothy 1:13; 1 Timothy 6:3) and carefully “mark-it-down” and duplicate it. That divine pattern must be followed explicitly in faith and practice. Watered-down” is unacceptable! “Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God” (2 John 9).

Hosea later said of Ephraim (representing God’s people). “...he mixed himself among the people” (Hosea 7:8). As evident, the identity of God’s people was being lost, no longer to be recognized as God’s “peculiar people.” Because of this, the prophet pointedly announced. “They shall not dwell in Jehovah’s land” (Hosea 9:3).

Two good lessons can be learned from Hosea’s statements about Israel: (1) God does not allow in religion the substituted, the counterfeit, that which is after man’s command; (2) when God’s people mingle themselves with people who embrace religious innovations and take up their practices, they soon lose their God-given identity, become oppressed, are crushed in judgment and shall not dwell in “God’s land.”

Man was lost without God, unable to save himself (1 Corinthians 1:21) and without hope. God, as a loving God full of grace and mercy, devised a plan involving His only begotten Son and the church that He would build to save mankind. We are foolish to think that we can improve upon God’s plan and even more foolish to become involved in a counterfeit or substitution.

—Joe W. Nichols

Sympathy

A memorial service for **Charles Simmons** was held at the church building at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4th in celebration of his life. Charles passed from this life on March 24th. Denny Wilson conducted the service. Keep the Simmons' family in your prayers.

Prayer Request

Hannah Weakland's left arm was broken in three places due to a bicycle accident she had last weekend. She had to undergo emergency surgery late that night to reset her arm. Hannah was able to go home on Monday, August 3rd. She is home recuperating. Continue to keep her in your prayers.

Prayers have been requested for **Sheila Stanton** (Christy's mom). She underwent outpatient surgery on Wednesday, August 5th to have stents put in both kidneys. Sheila has some other health issues and is in need of prayers.

Adrian Nunez (Rudy and Emma Ochoa's grandson) was bitten by a dog. He was taken to the hospital to have his badly injured hand treated. Adrian was able to go home from the hospital but his hand is still somewhat swollen. Keep him in your prayers.

Tim Tolbert (Bill Tolbert's son) tested positive with the Covid 19 virus. He had been with his mom and dad just days before. However, Bill and Velma both have tested negative. Bill has asked us to keep his son in our prayers.

Paul Gunn has requested prayers for his son, **Wayne Anderson**, who is not doing well at this time. He needs our prayers and encouragement.

Concerns Update

Jazmin Duron (Linda Tate's granddaughter) had two blood transfusions last week due to internal bleeding from a nicked artery during her last surgery. Continue to keep Jazmin in your prayers.

Continue to keep **Richard and Carolyn Siler** in your prayers as they recuperate from the virus. They are doing very well.

Prayer List

Jack Aaron; Brian Basaldua; Bill Berry; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Steve Chavez; Jon Cooper; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Leo Holloway; Vertie Howard; Easton Jones; Chris Landers; Liz Leach; Betty Leeth; Allen & Resa Mann; Krysta McMullen; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Jr. & Julie Munoz; Barbara Murphy; Tanya Nichols; Rudy Ochoa; Juanita Orosco; Erica Patiño; Trina Plyler; Corina Rodriguez; Diane Salinas; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Jackie Wallace; James & Janet Wesson; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

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

Youth

Bible Quiz Question (Where do you find it?)

There is none righteous, no not one.

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

Zacchaeus was the “wee little man” (*short in stature*) in Jericho. He was a rich tax collector.

Events

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

Office News

The New Mexico **Christian Children's Home** will let us know when they will be here for their food drive. They are requesting **Coconut Oil** and **Dryer Sheets**.

Our “**Fall Quarter Bible Classes**” begins September 2nd. Our Coordinators will be looking for teachers. If you would like to start or continue teaching for the next quarter or perhaps be a helper in a class, please let one of the Coordinators know.

Food for Thought...

We never lose so much that we have nothing left for which to give thanks.

There is really only one person that can defeat you and that is yourself.

We Ought to Know How to answer Every Man!

Children of God should know what they believe and why they believe it. Furthermore, they should be able to relate their convictions to others. In Colossians 4:6 are these thought provoking words from Paul, “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

Someone has suggested that speaking with grace may indicate the pleasant, winsome manner of presenting the truth and that seasoned with salt may indicate the clever manner in which it is presented. It is obviously true that the manner in which one presents anything may determine whether it will be accepted or rejected. The arrogant, domineering person will soon become offensive, even if what they say is biblically correct.

Let us think for a while about what is involved in a good answer to a question about our faith in God.

—Gary Smith

August 9, 2020

A.M.

P.M.

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| Announcements | Larry May | Larry May |
| Song Leader | Oliver Hernandez | Craig Wesson |
| Sermon | Allen Weakland | Allen Weakland |
| Opening Prayer | Larry May | Larry May |
| Scripture | Bill Ryan | Tommy Garcia |
| Second Prayer | Josh Wells | Trinidad Wood |
| Closing Prayer | Charles Wood | Bill Brown |
| Lords Supper | | |
| <u>Scripture Reading:</u> | Jeff Wesson | Richard Siler |
| | | Communion |
| | | (In Library) |

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990—*Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834 — *Pulpit:* Craig Wesson 934-4633—*Table:* Richard Siler 556-2151 — *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson 934-4646— *Collections:* Cody Wesson 934-4646

(Our services are stream-lined on FB)

Sunday AM

"How to Stay in the Light"

(1 John 2:7-11)

Sunday PM

"Prescription for Spiritual Well-Being"

(3 John 1:3)

Our Records

Bible Class... 47

Morning Worship...NC

Evening Worship...52

Wednesday...54

Contribution... \$4,655.00