

Eisenhower Church of Christ

“Do You Think You Are the Only Ones Going to Heaven?”

“Do you think that everyone who is not a member of the church of Christ will be lost and go to hell?” Does this sound familiar? Then, there is the reverse of this question. “Do you think you are the only ones going to heaven?” These are loaded questions. Many times they are asked out of prejudice and resentment. The objective is to make it appear that members of the Lord’s church are arrogant, haughty, conceited and have a “holier-than-thou” attitude. When such questions are asked they hardly deserve an answer.

However, many do ask out of a sincere motive which indicates they know very little about the New Testament. They need to be properly answered. Their basic problem is that they need to see that there is a difference between Christ’s Church and a denomination. It is difficult to get people to see that what Christ established and is called “the church” in the New Testament– and what men have started and is called denominationalism– are entirely two different things. One is by the authority of Christ (Matthew 16:18) the other is by man’s authority (Matthew 15:9; 2 Timothy 4:2-4). This makes one divine while the other is human. One was conceived in the mind of God (Ephesians 3:9-11), while the other was conceived in the mind of man.

Another problem is our terminology. When I use the word “church” I mean what the Lord meant by it. In general when men use the word they mean what human tradition ascribes to it. For example when someone asks me if the church of Christ is the only true church I answer, “Yes.” But what I mean by “yes” and what the querist thinks I mean are two different things. The New Testament word “church” means to me what Jesus built and belongs to Him (Matthew 16:18). However, the querist interprets my “yes” as if I were saying, “My denomination is the only true church.” Since he feels that one denomination is as good as another, his reaction is, “How can you be so dogmatic to think your denomination is the only true one.” For this reason I must get him to see the difference in our terminology.

Men must understand that it is in the Lord’s church, not in a denomination, that the saved are found. It is difficult to impress people with this simple truth because of the prevalent idea of separating the church and salvation into two compartments. The prevailing idea is that one is saved then he joins the denomination of his choice. In New Testament times no one ever joined a denomination because none existed. Neither do we find in the New Testament where one was saved, then joined the church. Rather the process that makes one a Christian also makes him a member of the Lord’s church (Acts 2:41-47). Church membership is taken care of by the Lord. He adds a man to the church of Christ when he completes his obedience to the Gospel. God is not going to place the saved (Christian) in a human institution (denomination) in preference to the blood-bought church of His Son (Ephesians 5:23).

These questions are poorly worded and leave certain implications which are misleading. Sometimes the rewording of a question will change one’s attitude toward the answer. For example, instead of the question “Will those who are not in the church of Christ be lost?” We might suggest it be reworded to ask, “Will only faithful Christians be saved?” Very few will react against the answer to this, yet it presents the same truth as the loaded question. Also, instead of the question, “Do you think you are the only ones going to heaven?” it could be reworded to ask, “Can those outside of Christ be saved?” There are other loaded questions which if reworded would produce better reactions.

The fact that one believes in the one church of the New Testament does not make him haughty or arrogant. Paul the greatest Christian the world has known believed this. He said that there is “one body...one faith” (Ephesians 4:4-5). Furthermore he was a member of this one church. Yet, there was nothing conceited about Paul. If some members have a “holier-than-thou” attitude it certainly is without justification. Often the main difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is not that he is superior or better than the other for the Christian sins too (I John 1:8). The big difference is that the Christian has found where the blood is and how to be saved by it (I John 1:7, 9; 2:1). Instead of arrogance the Christian

is humbled that God would condescend to save him. Paul never forgot that he was a sinner and he never ceased to be humbled at the thought that he had been redeemed (I Timothy 1:15-16).

Realizing the necessity of being in Christ's church causes us to declare this truth is even though we know it produces prejudice and resentment. At the risk of being branded snobbish we must tell people the truth for nothing can substitute for it (John 8:32). In spite of our best and most sincere efforts there will always be those who will be offended by the truth (2 Peter 2:2). This is regrettable, even tragic but sometimes there is very little we can do about it. —

Jimmie Eaton

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Bill Lewis**. Bill passed away on Thursday, August 2nd. His funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, August 6th at the Fairmont Park Church of Christ in Midland. Bill was the brother-in-law of George & Jurlean Warren. Keep this family in your prayers.

Prayer List

Tom Bauer; Elsie Bradford; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; David Castor; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; James V. Drake; Glenda Driver; Dana Erwin; Densell Fambro; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Shirley Harvey; Letha Hooper; Chris & Shirley Landers; Juan & Estella Morolez; Caydon Parker; Jackie Rex; Ida Rodriguez; Elvia Ruckman; Janelle Shirley; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; James Stephens; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Chuck Weaver; Jimmy Weaver; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley; John Wood; Jack Wright.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

In Matthew 16:13, when Jesus asked of His apostles, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" there were two personages named, one from the New Testament and one from the Old Testament. Name them.

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

The disciple who followed Jesus into the court yard of Caiaphas, the High Priest (at the time of Jesus' arrest) was Peter. It was there that Peter denied knowing the Lord three times.

Events

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

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.

Thank You

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you seems so inadequate for all the love shown to us in the loss of our Chris. You have showered us with hugs, calls, cards, visits, food and your generosity.

Thank you for the many prayers that have gone up for us as we struggle to get through our grief.

As one of our relatives put it—this is what a church family should be like.

In Christian Love,

Bill, Robbie, Cathy, Caimee, Billy and Zak

Office News

The “New Mexico Children’s Home” will be here Tuesday, September 4th—Need **“Instant Oatmeal”**. Monetary donations accepted.

Family Devotional ...

We will have a “Family Devotional” today following our evening service.

Men’s Meeting...

There will be a men’s meeting at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, August 25th at Rosa’s on 42nd Street. Men, please mark this date and set aside the time to attend if you possibly can.

Christians Only

Is it possible to simply be a Christian today, in the 21st century? Can we avoid being entangled in and weighed down by all the trappings and innovations of man which have found their way into religion over the past 2000 years?

I believe the answer is “yes” and can be accomplished by taking an “island approach” to Christianity. What do I mean by that? Suppose there was an isolated island filled with people who knew nothing of Jesus. However, one day a chest washed ashore and contained therein a copy of the Bible. The islanders began reading this book with great interest. After months of careful study, they came to the point of faith, turned from their sins, confessed their faith in Jesus as the Son of God, were baptized into Christ and began worshiping God together and committing themselves to the moral standards contained in the Scriptures.

Question: What denomination were these islanders when they obeyed the gospel? What “brand” of Christian were they? It’s a silly question, isn’t it? They would not be a part of any denomination, sect or party. They would simply be Christians and Christians only.

Now friends, if people on an isolated island can be “Christians Only”, then why can’t we be “Christians Only” in our respective communities? The fact is, we can. However, it will require that we do what they did...open the Bible; unite on what it teaches leaving behind those practices and doctrines that are not found therein. –Steve Higgenbotham

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through thy word that they all may be one as You Father are in Me and I in You that they also may be one in Us that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John:17-20-21).

August 12th, 2018

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Rudy Ochoa	John Wood
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Josh Wells	Tom Sorenson
Second Prayer	Bill Tolbert	Bill Brown
Closing Prayer	Craig Wesson	Trinidad Wood
Lord's Supper		
West...	Jeff Wesson	Scot Straw
	David Ryan	Communion
	Don Eason	(In Library)
East...	George Warren	
	Tommy Garcia	
	Josh Weakland	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder :* Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon:* John Wood 413-7444 *Pulpit:* Tom Sorenson 638-9447 *Table:* Scot Straw 301-0549 *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties:* Cody Wesson 561-5302 *Collections:* Cody Wesson 561-5302

Sunday AM

"Safe Guards of Forgiveness"
(II Samuel 12:13-14)

Sunday PM

"Proper Perspectives for Successful Evangelism"
(Mark 16:15-16)

Our Records

Bible Class... 76
Morning Worship...108
Evening Worship...69
Wednesday...84
Contribution...\$5,232.75