

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Entertainment Religion

The above title rings with contradiction to say the least. Yet, this is apparently what a growing number are calling for in the brotherhood. Rather than being active participants in simple New Testament worship to God, some are more interested in regressing to the status of spectator with the expectation of being *entertained*. How terribly sad and shameful is the situation in some churches of Christ that their assemblies resemble more a game show like “Wheel of Fortune” or “Let’s Make a Deal” than they do the New Testament pattern of an orderly true worshiper setting of praise to God. A few years back a sister in Christ explained to me why she left one congregation and began worshiping at another. Her words were, “Too much play, not enough Bible study.” It is no exaggeration that all over the brotherhood church after church is turning the assembly into a playhouse.

In 1 Corinthians 14 we have an example of a worship assembly that was more self-pleasing than God pleasing. Admittedly, the problem was not entertainment per se. Some brethren were abusing their spiritual (miraculous) gifts (vs.23-33). But, both entertainment as “worship” and the first century abuse of miraculous powers are examples of Christians being more interested in pleasing self than God. And the result is the same in either case; an assembly characterized by confusion (v. 33), indecent behavior and disorder (v. 40). Paul informed the Corinthians that they were on the verge of being perceived as mad (v. 23). This brought a swift rebuke by the apostle that stressed the edification purpose of the worship assembly (vs. 3-5, 12, 17, 26). Brethren, we do not (or at least we should not) assemble to entertain one another but rather to *edify* each other. It is worth nothing that the word “edification” refers to “the promotion of spiritual growth” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary, 2:17-18). There is no recreation or entertainment implied in the term.

The idea and practice of entertainment in and as worship to God did not originate with the Lord’s people but rather with the denominations. Tragically, we picked it up from them. Some time ago, a church ad in a local newspaper that carried a photograph of a woman sitting asleep in the pew with this short statement:

If your idea of church is that it is dull and boring we have got good news!...We offer great sounding contemporary music, drama, relevant messages designed to meet real needs...Visit us this Sunday for our grand opening celebration when our special musical guest will be the Mustard Seeds and discover for yourself why church never has to be boring again.

It should be apparent to all that this “marketing approach” is an impeachment of the worship of the church and thus of the Word of God. Frankly, it sounds more like a supermarket opening to me than the first service of a new “church.” And as mentioned earlier these unauthorized innovations are finding their way into some churches of Christ. Brother Tom Holland of Nashville, Tennessee, has wisely noted:

There is a sacredness of worship that must not be sacrificed on altars of superficial spirituality, fads of the day, emotion-rousing hand clapping and entertainment-oriented quartets and choirs. The profound dignity of worship should not be sacrificed to shallow, sensational displays of drama.

I could not agree more. These things, and others that could be listed, do more than just depreciate worship. They denounce Scripture as the only perfect blueprint (Acts 2:42; Romans 6:17; Colossians 3:17) in the religious affairs of man. What has led and is leading some in this entertainment religion direction? Possibly it is thinking that the church is in the numbers business. Or maybe it is the old fashion desire to be like the nations around us (I Samuel 8:5). But, it is not guess work to state that the Lord's church is facing a spoiled, entertainment-crazed society and we must take a stand. While it is true that we wish happiness to all and encourage love for everyone, we will not sacrifice worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24) for the entertainment concerns of the worldly.

—Mel Futrell

Prayer Request

Janis Laminack suffered a massive heart attack on July 24th and also a stroke at the same time. She had to have a blood transfusion before having surgery on the 27th. The stents had come undone. The numbness on her right side has slowly subsided with the help of therapy. She is very weak and tired. Janis is home and is requesting our prayers.

Keep Allen's mother, **Doris Weakland**, in your prayers as she contemplates moving to Myrtle Beach, SC.

Keith Harper (a former member of Eisenhower) informed us that his mom (**Sue Dahlen**) fell last week fracturing her hip. Keith has requested that we keep her in our prayers.

Concerns Update

Wilene Wright is waiting for her test results. Keep her in your prayers

Glenna McCarty is doing a little better and hopes that she will be able to come to services soon. She misses everyone. Continue to keep Glenna in your prayers.

Velma Tolbert is home but still not feeling well. She is undergoing chemo treatments for her cancer. Keep her in your prayers.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell, Jane Burroughs; Harold Carrigan; John Cole; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Glenda Hillis; Cathy Irby; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Kristen Limb; Eliseo Lopez; Alana May; Glenna McCarty; Russ Montgomery; Tanya Nichols; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Elvia Ruckman; Ryan Charles Rutledge; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; James Weaver; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

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

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Zechariah 9:9 reads, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee; he is just, and riding upon an ass and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

Which chapter in Matthew was this recorded as fulfilled? Chapter 20, 21 or 22

Last Week’s Bible Quiz answer...

Paul asked Philemon to forgive his runaway slave.

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.

“**Ladies Retreat**” at the Promise Land Resort on September 15th–16th. There will be a signup sheet posted on our bulletin board.

The “**20th Annual Lubbock Lectureship**” at the Southside Church of Christ in Lubbock is scheduled for October 8th–11th, 2017. The Theme is “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth. The flyer showing all the speakers for this year is posted on the bulletin board.

Office News

The “**New Mexico Children’s Home**” will be back in Odessa September 7th, 2017. They are requesting **applesauce**. Monetary donations also accepted.

Tonight we will have an “**Evening of Prayer**” in place of our regular service.

10 Ways to Find Time to Read the Bible

1. Wake up 10 minutes earlier in the mornings to read the bible.
2. Keep a bible by the phone to read while you’re on hold.
3. Keep a copy in the kitchen to read while you wait for the pie or the casserole to bake.
4. Carry a copy of the bible in your purse or pocket to read while waiting for appointments such as doctors, dentists, etc.
5. Keep a copy in the glove compartment of your car in case you’re stuck in traffic.
6. Choose to read a chapter in the Bible rather than chit-chat on the telephone.
7. Never go on a trip without your Bible.
8. Turn off the TV and read to the children.
9. Read a verse or two at mealtime when all the family is present.
10. Put a Bible by your bedside to read just before you go to sleep.

August 13th, 2017

Announcements
 Song Leader
 Sermon
 Opening Prayer
 Scripture
 Second Prayer
 Closing Prayer

A.M.

Allen Weakland
 John Wood
 Allen Weakland
 Allen Weakland
 Cody Wesson
 Jeff Wesson
 Trinidad Wood

P.M.

Allen Weakland
 Jacob Carson
 Allen Weakland
 Allen Weakland
 Don Easlon
 Charles Wood
 John Wood

Lord's Supper
 West...

Rudy Ochoa
 Bill Ryan
 Trinidad Wood

Chris Butler
 Communion
 (In Library)

East...

Tony Marrs
 Dylan Straw
 Josh Weakland

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Allen Weakland 254-8209 *Deacon*: Jr. Munoz 363-1309; *Pulpit*: Jacob Carson 940-3775; *Table*: Chris Butler 362-7486; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Craig Wesson 934-4633; *Collections*: Craig Wesson 934-4633

Sunday AM

"Faith Rising Into Assurance"
(Romans 8:30-39)

Sunday PM

"Evening in Prayer"
(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Our Records

Bible Class... 72
Morning Worship...140
Evening Worship...62
Wednesday...82
Contribution...\$7,130.75