

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Watchdog, or Hound of the Baskervilles

Not all praise is good (cf. Luke 20:21; Galatians 1:10), nor all criticism bad (John 7:24; cf. Matthew 23). Living the Christian life in general, and preaching the Gospel in particular, demands, as the need arises, both Bible-based praise as well as criticism. Sometimes, being critical of brethren who are teaching or practicing error will be criticized as being somehow improper.

Not long ago, a brother implied that I fancy myself as a watchdog. He said, “We do not need a watchdog.” I was a bit stung by the term and even denied. “I am not a watchdog.” However, after reflection, I realize that my denial was out of place.

A watchdog is trained to guard property, valuables or the life and well-being of its owners. Sometimes the term is used in reference to “A person or group that keeps watch in order to prevent waste, unethical practices, etc.” (Webster, 1605). Understanding what a watchdog is, two questions, may be raised: (1) Why should not a Christian be a watchdog, and (2) Why does not the church need a watchdog?

Read all what the Bible says about “watching” or being “watchmen.” In Jeremiah 12, God speaks of His “house” and “heritage” (Jeremiah 12:7). These are references to Israel; Old Testament Israel. Old Testament Israel was the type of the real “house” or “people” of God (1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:10), which is the church of Christ, Jeremiah describes God’s people as being “surrounded” and “devoured”: “Mine heritage is unto me as a specked bird, the birds’ round about are against her. Come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour” (Jeremiah 12:9). Why would God invite the scavengers and beasts to come in and have their way?

Isaiah explains why the “house of God” was open for pillage and destruction:

“All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest. His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from every quarter” (Isaiah 56:9-12).

The “watchmen” refers to the prophets. Sometimes they did not do their job of warning of impending danger (see, Jeremiah 29; Ezekiel 34:14). Unfortunately, the watchdogs in Isaiah’s way were all “dumb dogs.” They could not, or would not bark. They raised no voice of warning, rather they were “sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber,” Isaiah says they were greedy and only looking out for their own “gain.”

I am a Watchdog and proud of it. I trust I will never be a “dumb dog” who will not bark when he is supposed to, nor a wild monster like that in the story of the Hound of the Baskervilles. Of course, there was no such thing as that mythical Hound from Hell; it was convenient for some with ulterior motives to make others think that there was.

Remember Paul's charge to the Ephesian elders:

“Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock; Also, of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them; Therefore, watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears” Acts 20:28-31).

— Alan Adams

Prayer Request

Loyce Driver has requested prayers for her brother, **Richard Leach**, who had his fourth eye surgery on Friday, August 20th. Richard will have another surgery in the near future. Please keep him in your prayers that everything will go well for him.

Daniel Reyes had to be taken to Medical Center - ER on Tuesday, August 17th with breathing problems. He was able to get a bed in the ER. Daniel received a steroid shot and would be sent home with oxygen when released. Keep him in your prayers.

Larriat McGhee and **Travis Ruckman** both were fighting the Covid 19 virus last week.

David Ryan was exposed to the Covid 19 virus last week and will be quarantined.

Melvin Keith, **Tracie Halbert's** grandfather, was taken to the ER over a week ago. He was diagnosed with Diverticulitis. Keep Melvin in your prayers that he feels better soon.

Gloria Craig has requested prayers for her co-worker, **Albert Steinke**, who was taken to ORMC—ER recently with severe dehydration and a low heart rate of 43. Please keep him in your prayer for better health.

Concerns Update

Doug Guynn received good news from his last trip to Ft. Worth last week. Prayers are being answered.

Joyce Ferneau, **Devida's** cousin, is out of her unconscious state. Her mixed medications caused a slight heart attack. She needs prayers.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Nola Beckham; Betty Branson; LaDonna Chism; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Joyce Ferneau; Briana Fuentez; Hattie Gilmore; Doug Guynn; John & Belinda Katon; Betty Leeth; Alex Martinez; Glenna McCarty; Larriat McGhee; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Daniel Reyes; Jackie Rex; Steve Savell; Cynthia Schulze; Jackie Schulze; Shane and Nicole Sweeten; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; Charles Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... (Question)

How many people did Cornelius send to bring Peter to his house?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

It is the body of the believer in Christ that is "sown in weakness" but "raised in power" at the coming of Christ. (I Corinthians 15:42-43).

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

Two area "**Gospel Meetings**" are scheduled. The **Knott church of Christ's** meeting starts today and goes through Wednesday with Bret McCasland. And, the **Ackerly church of Christ's** is September 12-15th. Their guest speaker is Todd Clippard from Hamilton, Alabama. Both flyers are on the bulletin board.

"A Message from Thom Moore, NMCCCH"

August 11th, 2021

Dear Family of Eisenhower,

I am always amazed at your response to the work of the New Mexico Christian Children's Home as you watch the presentation. Your reactions are priceless. I only wish you could see yourselves as it is being presented. Your faces light up as you witness the LORD's work being done right before you.

We are so thankful for the support your congregation continually puts forth to be of assistance to us. The LORD is being praised daily for your consistency and continual love for all here.

Our prayers are that the finishing up of this year will be a great boost to your family there. Allen, Larry and Jeff are working to bring you all together closer spiritually. I admire Allen's desire to help you learn of God's will for your lives and to keep you fired up as you go throughout your every day.

It is so exciting to hear of a wedding to take place for Cody and his precious sweetheart soon in November. Can't believe it's only 3 months away. Oh, how times are moving quickly!

So, until I get to see you again, my prayer is that GOD take care of my family at Eisenhower. To HIM to be praised and glory forever and ever! AMEN and AMEN!

August 22, 2021

Announcements

Song Leader

Sermon

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Second Prayer

Closing Prayer

A.M.

Larry May

Craig Wesson

Allen Weakland

Larry May

Don Easlon

Oliver Hernandez

Jacob Carson

P.M.

Larry May

Cody Wesson

Allen Weakland

Larry May

John Wood

Gary Loving

Charles Wood

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading:

Josh Weakland

David Ryan

Tom Sorenson

Tommy Garcia

Cody Wesson

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990— *Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834— *Pulpit:* Scot Straw 288-4533 — *Table:* Cody Wesson 934-4646— *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 — *Collections:* Scot Straw 288-4533

Sunday AM

“God’s Word—an Empowering Force”
(Psalm 119:49-56)

Sunday PM

“Deceitfulness of Sin”
(Hebrews 3:13)

Records

Bible Class... 60
Morning Worship...95
Evening Worship...51
Wednesday...55
Contribution...\$4,632.25