

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Mishandling the Word of God

Paul told Timothy: “Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15). The expression “handling aright” is translated from a Greek word which literally means “to cut straight.” Within the context of this passage, however, the term signifies that one is to teach accurately the Word of God. It emphasizes that solemn responsibility placed on every Christian teacher to set forth the Word of Truth in a reliable and candid fashion. It is the exact opposite of what the same apostle wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:2 when describing teachers who were “handling the sword of God deceitfully,” which suggests they were altering the inspired message by contaminating it with error. Is not the bible filled with warnings against tampering with the sacred Scriptures?

**Corrupting:** “For we are not as the many, corrupting the word of God” (2 Corinthians 2:17). The word “corrupting,” derived from *kapeleuo*, refers to a tavern keeper or a retailer of wine. Such were notorious for diluting their wine with water to make more profit. Hence, the word came to mean to adulterate or corrupt. It is here applied to the corrupters of truth who dilute and mingle admixtures of error with the pure Word of God for sordid gain. Interestingly, the apostle employed this metaphor to show that he did not like the many false teachers of his day; mix falsehoods with the Gospel to please the vitiated taste buds of his hearers.

**Perverting:** “There are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:7). The word “pervert,” translated from *metastrepho*, means “to change to another, change to the opposite.” Here, it denotes the idea of overturning the Gospel. The reference is to Judaizing teachers attempting to bind the Mosaic law on Christians, thus rendering the Gospel of none effect by turning it into that of opposite character. The apostle makes it plain that this mongrel gospel was a perversion of the real thing and so actually making it no Gospel at all. And, where there is no Gospel, there is no salvation!

**Wresting:** “Which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:16). The word “wrest,” from *streblon*, means “to twist or torture.” The term was used in ancient times to tell of putting a person to torture to make him confess some crime laid to his charge or to reveal some secret he knew. Applied here to the Scriptures, it refers to farfetched and unsupported interpretations that one arrives at by making a passage speak a meaning different than the author intended as it is possible to twist or torture a person till he says what you want him to say, it is possible to twist the Scriptures till one forces out a desired meaning.

As there were those corrupters, perverters and wresters of God’s Word in the first century they are likewise in the twenty first. And, while the religious world is bombarded with these distorters of Truth, it is the treasonous buccaneers within the body of Christ that alarms us most. We have our fair share of those in the church of Christ today who “treat as tavern-keepers the Word of God” by watering down the Gospel with their little starry-eyed, feel-good sermonettes. These flitty, pulpiteering perverters are intent on warping and distorting the truth into an ear-tickling, back-scratching, palatable mush so as to zing the insipid tongues of lukewarm and worldly-minded brethren. Too many no longer look upon the Word of God as the “sword of the Spirit” which, being sharper than the two-edged kind, is an instrument of weaponry to cut and slice the sluff and sludge of sin from the lives of mankind. Rather, our current approach is to dull the sword by psychologizing sinners with a pseudo-gospel till we have robbed the Truth of its distinctiveness and power to save. Many who call themselves preachers are really people-pleasing pastors intoxicated with the political and popular sway of things! Paul’s prophecy has come to pass where he foretold that the brethren

would “heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts”. What can we do but stand in the gap and plead for the old paths?

Stephen Wiggins

### ***Baptism***

We are happy to announce that **Atasi Bhavsar** put her Lord on in baptism last Sunday evening, September 2nd, following the services. Atasi has been faithfully attending bible classes and our services here at Eisenhower. Allen had the privilege of baptizing her into Christ. Let’s give Atasi a very warm welcome into the body of Christ.

### ***Prayer Request***

We need to keep **Glenna McCarty** in our prayers. In mid- August, she began passing out. She went to Dr. Salcido for an examination. After checking her, he admitted her into ORMC for more testing. Her blood pressure was very low and she was in a weakened state. The test results showed her immune system was depleted due to the two beta blockers she had been taking. Glenna was in the hospital for a week and then taken to rehab on the 3rd floor for eight days. She is home now and will see her heart doctor tomorrow morning. Please keep Glenna in your prayers that she will be able to get well soon.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Bill and Mary Brown** both are feeling much better and able to be back to services after fighting sinus infections for over two weeks. Glad to see both of them back.

**Kenzel May’s** hip replacement surgery went well. He was up walking a few steps that afternoon; also down the hallway and up some steps. Kenzel was scheduled to go home on Thursday, September 6th. Continue to keep him in your prayers.

**Jimmy Weaver’s** hernia surgery on August 30th went well. He is home recuperating. Continue to keep him in your prayers that he will have a full recovery and get to feeling better soon.

### ***Prayer List***

Elsie Bradford; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; Raymundo Calzadias; 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; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; 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.

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...**

What was the name of Moses’s wife?

#### **Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer...**

The first five books of the Bible make up the part called the Pentateuch. They are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

## 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.

**Heath Stapleton** from the Brown Trail School will be here on September 16th to present a lesson concerning the work at the Brown Trail School for the Spanish students.

The *“Lee Street Church of Christ in Midland”* has a Gospel Meeting coming up with Anthony Flunder as guest speaker. The date and time for their meeting is September 16th-20th at 7:00 each evening. Please mark that date.

## Office News

A *“Bible Class Teacher’s Meeting”* is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 15th in Room C—5. All ladies who have taught or wish to teach, please set some time aside to attend the meeting.

A *“Deacons Meeting”* is scheduled for Sunday, September 16th following our evening service.

## Other Things to Do

When it is time to worship God  
And to occupy my pew,  
Will I assemble with the saints  
Or find other things to do?  
When God needs my service to Him  
And wants me to help a few,  
Will I do what needs to be done  
Or find other things to do?  
When I sit down to rest awhile  
With quiet reading in view  
Will I read the Word of God  
Or find other things to do?  
When I stand before the throne  
And God renders what is due  
Will He grant me mercy or will He  
Find other things to do?

## September 9, 2018

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Josh Weakland	Richard Siler
Second Prayer	Don Eason	Cody Wesson
Closing Prayer	Trinidad Wood	Rudy Ochoa
Lord's Supper (Scripture Reading)	<u>Bill Brown</u>	
West...	Larry May	Josh Wells
	Craig Wesson	Communion
	Richard Siler	(In Library)
East...	Jeff Wesson	
	Gary Loving	
	Dex Dennard	

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* : Allen Weakland 254-8209 *Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834 *Pulpit:* George Warren 557-2171  
*Table:* Josh Wells 770-6753 *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties:* Doug Guynn 260-0440 *Collections:* Doug Guynn 260-0440

### **Sunday AM**

*"Loyal to the Core"*  
*(II Samuel 15:21)*

### **Sunday PM**

*"Enriching Our Lives Together"*  
*(Ephesians 1:3)*

### **Our Records**

*Bible Class... 57*  
*Morning Worship...85*  
*Evening Worship...55*  
*Wednesday...976*  
*Contribution...\$4,040.00*