

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Forming Destinies

How would you describe the people of this age and where we are as a nation? Long ago, indifference toward the things of God gave way to hostility. The downward spiral described in Romans 1:18-32, is on-going in our age; and many have reached the level of “the reprobate mind.” (vs. 28). This should open the eyes of those who claim to know and honor God to the incredibly important work that is theirs—their faithful imitation of Christ and the proclamation of His Gospel. Many have become religious customers and have abandoned the will and purpose of God.

### **The Work Has Not Changed**

The work that God calls His people to has not changed; yet in too many instances, awareness of it and convictions regarding it are weak. The tide of indifference, of detachment and of resistance to the will of God is not new. It is easy to identify with the church at Ephesus, that “left its first love” (Revelation 2:4), or with the church at Laodicea in their state of apathy, being “lukewarm” (Revelation 3:15ff). While the world is moving away from God and is hostile toward the truth of God, it is not enough for those who would truly serve God to simply hold services or merely wring their hands. Incredibly, some are urging believers to “court the world”, to learn what the people of the world really want and demand and try to honor that. As the churches become more and more worldly and society becomes more and more hostile toward God, the undeniable fact is that those who would service God must fully return to the will and purpose of God and determine to do His will, no matter the cost. It remains that doing God’s will necessitates endeavoring to bring hearts and souls captive to His will (2 Cor. 10:5).

### **The Purpose Has Not Changed**

God’s purpose for His people has not changed. Christ’s commission remains the same—“God makes disciples,” “Go preach the gospel to every creature” (Mt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16). God’s people are the light of the world and they must let their light shine. God’s people are the salt of the earth and great tragedy attached to their losing their saltiness (Mt. 5:13-16). God’s plan for the saving of man is one of specific focus and it requires the greatest of passion and compassion on the part of the people of God. The message is one of specific information and directive; it is not vague counsel or empty appeal. What is at stake is the eternal destiny of eternal souls. God has no other plan for saving mankind.

### **Misguided “Professionals”**

The professionals in contemporary religious groups have long championed a program of friendly fellowship, the solving of surface problems, and the tutoring of their clients to accept themselves and their failings in the context of religious trappings. Challenging people to take an honest look at their purpose in life, in view of the will of God, is regarded as intimidating, even inappropriate.

Calling people to faith in Christ and allegiance to Him is treated as secondary, while self-worth and obtaining a healthy self-concept are treated as primary. Many who attend assemblies of worship and are looked upon as believers, are not believers at all! Their allegiance is to the

leader or to the group, not to Christ. While Christ is the excuse for their acts of devotion, He is not the reason! Many know next to nothing about worshiping God in spirit and in truth and they know even less about serving Him in reverence and godly fear. They know nothing of biblical obedience, yet they call themselves believers.

### **Consequences Remain**

What about those who are religious but are not Christ centered, that are not servants of God? What is true about them? They may impress some of the people of the world for a moment; however, they do not and cannot represent Christ! In speaking to such pretenders in His day, Jesus said, *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men”* (Matthew 15:8-9). What happens when those who call themselves the people of God ignore or neglect the directive Jesus gave to “go make disciples”? How many worship assemblies or classes attended will suffice to the Word to the people of the world? What happens when the people of God are content to simply meet and conduct services and enjoy time together in fellowship, but they never truly labor to teach and convert the sinful and erring? How long will it be before the congregation of which they are part is dead?

*“Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent”* (Revelation 2:4-5)

— Ronald Bryant

### **Sympathy**

We want to extend our sympathy to Sonia Wood and her family in the loss of her uncle, **Arthur Lopez**. Arthur passed away on October 4th from a brain aneurysm.

### **Prayer Request**

**Daniel Reyes** was not feeling well last week. He is in need of prayers.

### **Prayer List**

Wayne Anderson; John Michal Armendariz; Betty Branson; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Tara Grimmatt; Doug Guynn; Rosanna Herrera; Chris Landers; Alex Martinez; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Reda Sowell; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; John Wood.

### **Youth**

Bible Quiz Question ... (Fill in the blank)

Jesus drove seven demons from \_\_\_\_\_.

Last Week's Quiz Answer ... (Fill in the blank)

“Abide in Me and I in you.” (John 15:4)

### **Events**

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

**Rob Whitacre (House to House, Heart to Heart)** will be here Friday and Saturday, November 12th and 13th to present another “Evangelism Workshop”. Please set aside the time to attend this workshop.

We are hosting a (safe and fun) **“Trunk or Treat”** festival for the whole family at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 30th in the Church Parking Lot. There will be games, food, candy, fun and fellowship. Check details with Ashley or Kallie.

## **Thank You**

Dear Eisenhower Family,

Thank you for your sympathy and kindness at this difficult time. It is hard to find comfort, but having such a loving congregation is a real blessing. Siler and Lomax family

To my church family,

Thank you so much for the prayers offered on behalf of my grandson, Paxton, during his struggle with the Covid virus. They were appreciated so very much. Devida

## **Baby Shower...**

There will be a **“Drive-By Baby Shower”** for Gabby & Casey Cleveland on Saturday, October 23rd between 2:00-6:00 pm. The shower will be at their new home located at 1314 Terra Cotta St. Their baby girl is due December 6th. Selections are at Target.

## **People Do Change**

People do change but they do not often change churches. They change from one make of automobile to another. They change their places of residence. Many change husbands or wives. Many change jobs, but there seems to be a kind of stigma against changing churches.

People will readily change with churches—this is, if they are becoming more liberal. They don't change so readily with a church if its change is toward conservatism or strict adherence to the Scriptures. People are ten times more afraid of being narrow than of being unscriptural. They are more afraid of being out of step with the crowds than of being out of step with Christ.

The one thing that should cause dissatisfaction with a church is its departure from the Scriptures. The best reason for making a change is to be with one that studies the Scriptures and strives in all of its phases to follow them. A church should be scriptural in name, doctrine, government, worship and work.

Jesus convinced some people who would not change. “Nevertheless, among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42-32). Joseph of Arimathaea was a secret disciple (John 19:38). He kept his discipleship secret for fear of the Jews.

We, as the church of Christ, believe that a church must be scriptural to be pleasing to Christ. This should make us stand well in the favor of men. But instead, we get criticism. Our greatest opposition stems from the fact that we warn against unscriptural things in religion and will not cooperate with those who practice them. We are called narrow. The promoters of unscriptural practices in religion assert that they are scriptural; this satisfies persons who have not taken the pains to search the Scriptures to see. They have confidence in “men of the cloth.” If they say they are scriptural, they are. But we who have examined the Scriptures daily to see if they are scriptural, have learned that they are not. And when we challenge the “men of the cloth” to show that their practices are not scriptural, they evade us. They become jittery and sometimes cross.

May all of us strive toward being scriptural rather than being popular!

—Garner S. Hall

## **October 17, 2021**

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Sermon  
Opening Prayer  
Scripture  
Second Prayer  
Closing Prayer

## **A.M.**

Jeff Wesson  
Cody Wesson  
Allen Weakland  
Jeff Wesson  
Jackie Perkins  
Larry May  
Richard Siler

## **P.M.**

Jeff Wesson  
Craig Wesson  
Allen Weakland  
Jeff Wesson  
David Ryan  
Don Easlon  
Oliver Hernandez

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading:

Craig Wesson

Gary Loving

Scot Straw

Jr. Munoz

Bill Ryan

Communion

(In Library)

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547 —*Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834 —*Pulpit:* John Wood 413-7444—*Table:* Bill Ryan 352-4871—*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332—*Collections:* Bill Ryan

### **Sunday AM**

*“Corn in Egypt”*

*(Genesis 42:1-2)*

### **Sunday PM**

*“Does It Matter?”*

*(James 1:27)*

### **Our Records**

*Bible Class... 53*

*Morning Worship...NC*

*Evening Worship...NC*

*Wednesday...50*

*Contribution...\$4,871.25*