

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Choices

One of the more powerful memes to appear on social media says: *You are free to choose, but you are not free from the consequences of your choice.* The author of this statement is unknown, but its truth is unimpeachable. Unfortunately, too many people seem unconvinced of it. The criminal makes the choice to break the law, but often seems genuinely offended that he must pay a penalty for that choice. The abortion industry thrives because so many choose to ignore this truth. Even professed believers get caught up in the mistaken idea that somehow we can avoid the consequences of our choices.

It is obvious that irreligious people have no vested interest in the principle of choices and consequences but professed believers certainly do. The scriptures are a testimony to this truth, literally from cover to cover. Adam and Eve made the choice to eat the forbidden fruit, and they suffered the consequences for having done so. God punished them and cast them out of the Garden. King David made the choice to commit adultery with Bathsheba, and he, too, suffered the consequences of this choice. The child born from that illicit union died, and the sword never departed from his household thereafter.

In the New Testament, Judas Iscariot made the choice to betray Jesus to the Jews. At any point up to the very act of betrayal he could have made a different choice, but he didn't and when he experienced remorse for what he had done, he made another choice. He chose to take his own life. Instead of receiving forgiveness and redemption, he sealed his fate, and is now held in disdain by all believers.

This is where believers sometimes get caught up in the mistaken idea of avoiding the consequences of our choices. We understand, appreciate, and desperately depend on the grace and mercy of God who offers us the forgiveness of our sins. The blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed on the cross of Calvary, washes away our sins when we are immersed for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). After this initial cleansing, we are promised that it continues to cleanse us when we sin, if we confess our sins and ask forgiveness (I John 1:5-10).

In Jeremiah 31:34 Jeremiah quoted God the Father saying that in the time of the new covenant He would forgive the iniquities of His people and He would not remember their sins. This is a fundamental truth which all believers hold dear. When God forgives our sins, we are forever spared the eternal consequences of the choices that led to those sins. However, the fact that God does not remember the sins that He has forgiven does not remove the temporal consequences of those sins.

A murderer can be forgiven of this choice, but he will still likely be executed or spend the rest of his life in prison. An adulterer can be forgiven, but he will likely spend the rest of his life dealing with the temporal consequences of having violated his wedding vows. A liar or thief can be forgiven, but will still have to deal with the physical consequences of these choices. The point is this: forgiveness does not remove these physical consequences and we are misguided to believe that it should.

Saying that we are free to choose, but not free from the consequences of our choices, does not negate God's grace and mercy. It simply acknowledges the fact that our actions have physical as well as spiritual consequences. Let us keep this truth in mind every day. Perhaps doing so will help us make the right choices instead of the ones that will lead us into sin.

—Fred Dominquez

Prayer Request

Clay Stanton (Christy Weakland's brother) received 2nd degree burns on his face and arms Friday, October 13th. He was taken to a burn unit for treatment. Keep Clay in your prayers that he will have a speedy recovery.

Josh Wells had a CAT scan done recently for some stomach pains he has been having. Josh is waiting for the test results.

Elsie Bradford (Loyce Driver's sister) is out of the hospital. She was treated for dehydration and also high blood pressure but Elsie still has lots of health issues to deal with. Loyce is requesting prayers for her.

Concerns Update

Bill Butler had a port put in last week for his chemo treatments. It came back that his cancer began in the colon. Please continue to keep Bill in your daily prayers that he will come out the winner in this battle.

Bill and Mary Brown were both under the weather last week with flu like symptoms. Bill was on an inhaler for his breathing and antibiotics. Mary had similar problems. She is also going through physical therapy for a torn rotator cuff in her left shoulder.

John Wood had his six month checkup in Dallas last week. There will be a change in his medication which looks promising. John is still in need of prayers.

Russ Montgomery (Devida's brother) had fluid drained from his lungs which will help his breathing. The heart cath on the 17th showed no blockage. A dye test on his lungs was done on Wednesday. They were checking the blood flow.

Prayer List

Tom Bauer; Lee Roy Bell, Jane Burroughs; Bill Butler; Harold Carrigan; David Castor; Sue Dahlen; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Charlene Harris; Glenda Hillis; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Kristen Limb; Eliseo Lopez; Alana May; Larry May; Glenna McCarty; Russ Montgomery; Tanya Nichols; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Russel Rosser; Elvia Ruckman; Matthew Simmons; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; James Weaver; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley.

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...

There were four restrictions that were imposed upon the Gentile believers by the Christian council in Jerusalem. One was that they should not eat blood. In Leviticus 17:14, the reason for this was given. What was the reason?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

Frankincense comes from the bark of a tree.

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.

Office News

Elizabeth Armendarez has 10 more children's names from the NMCCH for the Holiday Season this year. Please see her to pick a name if you would like to make a child happy.

The church phone that accepts messages is not working, so the office has no way to retrieve messages left by callers at this time.

Time to Re-Evaluate

Modern people have a hard time getting around the concept of hell and a "loving God." They can't imagine a loving God, consigning multitudes of people to an eternal punishment.

We have come a long way, it seems, from the "hell fire and damnation" sermons of a by-gone age. We have also ignored fifty percent of the character of God: "Note then the kindness and severity of God; Severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off" (Romans 11:22, ESV).

We need to reevaluate our understanding of what sin is, who sins, and how severe a condition it is. I know this isn't easy. Looking at our sin in the clear light of God's will is a little like staring into the sun. It is painful, tear-wrenching and concentrates the mind wonderfully.

God's grace reminds us of His profound love and our profound debt. Grace induces both deep relief and chest constricting fear. Grace teaches us the price of forgiveness and the cost of sin. Dear reader, grace teaches us both, not one or the other! We test God when we think of His forgiveness as His debt to us. He owes us not a thing; we owe Him everything.

—Bulletin Digest

October 22, 2017

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Larry May
Craig Wesson
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Josh Weakland
Don Easlon
Tony Marrs

P.M.

Larry May
Jacob Carson
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Trinidad Wood
Doug Guynn
George Warren

Lord's Supper

West...

Jeff Wesson

Rudy Ochoa

Dex Dennard

East...

Tom Sorenson

Bill Ryan

Tommy Garcia

Tony Marrs

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990; *Deacon*: Bill Ryan 272-5507; *Pulpit*: George Warren 557-2171; *Table*: Tony Marrs 553-7349; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Chris Butler 362-7486; *Collections*: Chris Butler 362-7486

Sunday AM

"Transforming View of God"

(Romans 12:1-2)

Sunday PM

"Why I Am A Member" (Pt 3)

(Matthew 16:18)

Our Records

Bible Class... 64

Morning Worship...95

Evening Worship...62

Wednesday...65

Contribution...\$4,175.25