

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Does the Church Save? (Part 1)

A stock expression with preacher's who hold union meetings, as well as some others, is, "We wish to see people saved, and then let them join the church of their choice." Often you hear, "One church is as good as another; the church does not save you." Many people hold the view that membership in the church the Lord built is not necessary to one's salvation.

If one church is as good as another, it must follow that the Mormon Church, built by Joseph Smith, is as good as the church built by our Lord. Mr. Smith was finite, limited in knowledge, and imperfect in character. The Lord is infinite, perfect in character, and possesses all power. Do the two compare favorably?

The Lord ordained that through His church, "*the manifold wisdom of God*" is to be made known (Ephesians 3:10). Christ is the head of the church He built (Colossians 1:18), but churches built by men exist by no higher authority than that residing in the men who built them. Unless a human institution is as good as a divine institution, it must follow that a church built by a mere man is not as good as the church the Lord built.

"There Are Good Men in All Churches"

It is said that "There are good men in all churches." As the world measures goodness, I grant that there are good men in one church as in another. There are also good men in the world; men who are examples of moral rectitude and in acts of charity. But that does not prove that the world is as good as the church. A Christian possesses all the virtues possessed by the man in the world, and in addition thereto, is a child of God, honors Him in worshipping as He directs, and gives Him the glory for the acts of charity performed.

If a man is saved because of his moral worth, it must follow that the death of Christ and the grace of God are not necessary for one's salvation, for there were moral men in the world before Christ came to save us. Cornelius was a man of outstanding moral righteousness, just in his dealings with his fellows, and fruitful in acts of charity. But he was not a member of the church the Lord built, and it is declared that he was an unsaved man (Acts 10:1-6; 11:14).

Jesus said, "***I will build my church***" (Matthew 16:18). He did build His church (Romans 16:16). Did the Lord build a church that was useless in the economy of Jehovah and unnecessary in the salvation of man?

"The Church Does Not Save"

Often you have heard, "The church does not save you." It is meant by that remark that it is not necessary to be a member of the church to be saved. All who read their Bibles understand that God saves. To pardon is the act of Jehovah. True, one must believe in the

Lord before God pardons him (Acts 16:31), but it is not faith that pardons. God forgives; God pardons.

Though one must repent to be saved (Acts 2:38), it is not repentance that pardons or saves the man; God saves! Repentance is an act the man must perform before God will save him.

One must be baptized to be saved (Mark 16:16), but it is not baptism that pardons. God pardons; God saves! The church does not save you, but consider this: Are the saved in the church or in the world?

Writing to the church at Corinth, Paul said they were, “*sanctified in Christ Jesus.*” “*...justified in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (I Cor. 1:2; 6:11) and *saved by the Gospel* (I Cor. 15:1-2). So, certain as one who is enjoying these blessings, that it is for sure, he is one of the numbers composing the church. The church does not save, but the saved ones are in the church.

—C. R. Nichol
(Part 2 next week)

Prayer Request

Glenna McCarty has pneumonia. She received an injection of antibiotics and received strong medicine and was feeling better by Tuesday. Glenna had an appointment Tuesday afternoon to have her breathing checked. Keep her in your prayers.

Charles Jones was admitted into MCH Friday, October 21st with serious health issues but now is back at the Assisted Living at The Parks. Keep Charles in your prayers.

LaDonna Chism is asking prayers for a co-worker, **Maria Guzman** who is having serious health problems. Keep her in your prayers.

Concerns Update

Elder McCarty is feeling fair. Continue to keep him in your prayers.

Carolyn Siler is recuperating from bronchitis.

Prayer List

David Alaniz; Lee Roy Bell, Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Bill Bundick; Mitchell Bundick; Sissy Bundick; Barbara Crowder; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Lon Howard; Charles Jones; Connie Lowe; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Rudy Ochoa; Trina Plyler; Andrew Schwarz; Janelle Shirley; Charles Simmons; John Tessororf; Marilyn Upshaw; James Weaver; Judy Wells; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; John Wood; Toya Zambelli.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

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

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

What was the occasion when Jesus gave nine beatitudes? Among them were “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” and “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

The Apostle Paul was shipwrecked three times.

Events

Today is our **"Fifth Sunday Services"**. We will have a potluck luncheon after our morning worship service followed by our evening service in the Annex. All our visitors are invited.

There will be a **"Prayer Service"** November 6th. We would like to encourage all our members to be here as we go to the Lord in prayer concerning our country.

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

The **"New Mexico Children's Home"** will be back in Odessa December 7th, 2016. They are requesting **Tea Bags** and **Koolaid**. Monetary donations also accepted.

The New Mexico Christian Children's Home will have an **"Open House"** November 19th.

NOTE:

We will have a **"Special Contribution"** on November 6th for Joe Kelly who will be going to the Philippines February, 2017 to help with the work there.

Baby Shower:

There will be a **"Baby Shower"** for Ashley Carson at 10:00—Noon on Saturday, November 12th at Bonnie Sorenson's home. The selections are at: Target, Babylist and Amazon. Come join the fellowship and fun!

"Odessa Christian Settler's Day" is Saturday, November 5th from 3:00-7:00 p.m. It is a traditional "Thanksgiving Dinner" which will be served from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and children. You can purchase your tickets at the OCS office. There will be a Silent Auction, Bake Sale & Treasure Room! It will be a day of fellowship and fun for all!

Ladies' Night...

There will be a **"Ladies' Night"** Thursday, November 17th. We will be making "Holiday Gift Baskets" for our elderly, shut-ins and those who go in the hospital. There's a list of items needed for the baskets on the bulletin board. Please sign your name beside one or more of the items you would like to bring. Thank you for your kind generosity.

Food for Thought

If you think you have influence try ordering someone else's dog around.

The road to success is always under construction.

There is only one place you can find success without work; in your dictionary.

October 30, 2016

Announcements

Song Leader

Sermon

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Second Prayer

Closing Prayer

A.M.

Larry May

Denny Wilson

Allen Weakland

Larry May

Josh Weakland

Bill Tolbert

Bill Ryan

P.M.

Larry May

Craig Wesson

Allen Weakland

Larry May

Isaiah Armendarez

Josh Wells

Richard Siler

Lord's Supper

West...

Charles Wood

Bill Ryan

Tom Sorenson

Chris Butler

Communion

(In Library)

East...

Richard Siler

Josh Weakland

Dylan Straw

Other Responsibilities: **Elder :** Larry May 638-3990 **Deacon:** Richard Siler 362-1392 **Pulpit:** Josh Wells 770-6753 **Table:** Chris Butler 362-7486 **Song Leaders:** Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; **Recording Duties:** Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 **Collections:** Rudy Ochoa 214-0398

Sunday AM

"Conversion of Cornelius"

(Acts 10:1-8)

Sunday PM

"Persevering Through Persecution"

(1 Peter 4:12-19)

Our Records

Bible Class... 78

Morning Worship...160

Evening Worship...71

Wednesday...80

Contribution...\$5,028.00