

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## “Are You Just Dying to be a Christian?”

We very often use the expression, “I’m just dying to do this” or “I’m dying to try that.” I often find myself “just dying” to do something. This expression seems almost out of place in a society that avoids discussing death. Less than 2,000 years ago, Jesus talked freely about death when referring to being a disciple. In fact, He said that His disciples must be like a kernel of wheat that dies to produce more wheat. Death is a dominant theme in the conversion to Christianity.

Over 100 years ago, Edgar Allen Poe wrote a short story titled “The Premature Burial.” In this story, Poe relates the not uncommon practice of burying people prematurely—that is, before they have died. It seems people would go into a deathlike coma, and then would be buried before their body could decompose. In some cases, when these people’s tombs were later opened, it was discovered that these people had indeed awakened in the grave only to die a second, more traumatic death.

Although Poe’s somewhat gruesome story is a fictional account, a similar story could be written today about a number of people who have been prematurely buried with Christ in the waters of baptism. Paul wrote, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” (Romans 6:3). Many people discover the good news that Jesus’ blood can cleanse us of our sins, and they rush into the water, only to be prematurely buried.

Paul, in Romans 6:2 says that we must be “dead to sin” - that is, we must die. Of course, Paul is speaking figuratively of death, as Christ did in John 12:24 when he referred to the grain of wheat dying. The New Testament points out clearly in several passages that we must die to live—a theme many people in our “give me” world overlook.

The symbolic death spoken of in the verses mentioned above is a necessary element in the regeneration process. Christ came that we might have life and “...have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). To attain this life, at least the eternal part of it, we must die. This can be plainly seen in Christ’s own death at Calvary. In fact, in the very next verse in John 10, Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” Just as Christ died and was resurrected to live again, we must die to be resurrected to live again. (Romans 6:2).

How can premature burials be explained? What malady could cause the unfortunate burials? Perhaps one reason many people rise from the waters of baptism simply wet rather than regenerated is that they have not made a calculated decision to make a lifelong commitment to turn completely from sin and follow Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?”

In our automated, wealthy country, people today need not commit themselves very much to anything. Self-sufficiency is almost a national motto and, indeed, is a national goal. To commit oneself to the cause of Christ is to deliberately sit down and count the costs and thereby turn or repent from the former life they have lived. Repentance, or “death to sin” as Paul put it, is not a clinical half-hearted death. You just cannot halfway die! When genuine repentance is realized, there can be no mistake in the diagnosis—death! Paul says in Acts 3:19, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out when the time of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.” The same kind of repentance is what Paul refers to in Romans 6:2: “How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” Indeed, before a person can be buried as a corpse, he must genuinely repent, and die to the world, a commitment many hesitate

to make.

Poe says in his story, “To be buried alive is beyond question the most terrific of these extremes which has ever fallen to the lot of mere mortality.” Undoubtedly, immortality is faced with an even more terrific extreme. This extreme is burying people in the waters of baptism before they have died to the world. Peter wrote that baptism does save us, but we need to be watchful for others and ourselves lest we bury anyone prematurely in the water only to wake to find a second death. Baptism leads to Heaven for those who have truly died. God’s question to us is simply, “Are you just dying to be a Christian?”

— Donny Lee

### ***Sympathy***

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Jeannie Whisenant**. Jeannie passed away at MCH last Sunday night, October 29th from double pneumonia. She was presently a member at the Parkview Church of Christ. Services are pending.

### ***Prayer Requests***

Jon Easley has requested prayers for his friend, **Klynn Roberts**, who is dealing with kidney failure. She needs prayers.

**Carolyn Siler** has been fighting pneumonia.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Wilene Wright’s** CT scan on her head was okay. Also, her UTI was cleared. Wilene is in Madison - Rm #316 for Rehab & therapy.

**Ronda Lyne** is still in Room #416 at Medical Center Hospital and on a ventilator.

### ***Prayer List***

Mary Anchondo; Maria Baeza; Irene Balerio; Ameer Blumenauer; Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; LaDonna Chism; James Drake; Jon Easley; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Lon & Lana Howard; Charles Lewis; Ronda Lyne; Leigh Ann McFarland; Keith Mitchell; Milous Mitchell; Juan & Estella Morolez; Inocencio Munoz, Sr; Julie Munoz; Bruce Plyler; Carolyn Siler; Linda Straw; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; John Wood; Wilene Wright.

### ***Eisenhower’s Homebound....***

Betty Branson; Glenna Callendar; James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

### ***Events***

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

### ***Food for Thought...***

He who seeks a friend without a fault remains without a friend.

When you forgive you do not change the past—but you sure change the future.

### ***Youth...***

### ***Bible Knowledge ....***

When Nineveh repented, its residents even put sackcloth on all their animals. (Jonah 3:8)

### **Office News...**

We have received (11 children's names) from the **New Mexico Christian Children's Home** in Portales, NM. We would like to have two Eisenhower families assigned for each child in order to make the shopping a lot easier. *Please be advised that unless all the children on the list have been assigned to someone to receive a gift, no gifts will be sent this year.*

### **"November Attended Nursery"**

11/5 Emma & Janis  
11/12 Kamryn & Hannah  
11/19 Nancy & Virgie  
11/26 Wanda & Rosalinda

## Unspotted from the World

The story is told of a young girl going on a tour of a coal mine who came dressed in a spotless white dress. Her companions rebuked her but she maintained it would be all right. "As long as I don't actually mine the coal, I will not soil my dress," she said. Then she asked the miner who was to guide them if she could wear a white dress into the mine. He answered, "There is nothing to keep you from wearing a white dress into the mine, but there are several things that will keep you from wearing one out!"

So, it is with a Christian partaking of worldly activities. It is not always necessary to actually engage in the practice to be influenced by it. When a Christian associates with worldly companions in worldly practices, even though he is just a witness, still he may be influenced by it and his resistance to these temptations may be weakened. When your companions start drinking, dancing, gambling, cursing, mixed swimming, or any such worldly practice, it is time to part company. The influence of sin is very subtle and you may find that even being a witness to these acts will cause you to weaken in your opposition and eventually to become a partaker. It is for this reason that the apostle Paul made the following statements:

"Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). "For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil" (Romans 16:19). "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Romans 1:32). And, "Be not deceived: evil companionships corrupt good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Do not wear the "white dress of Christianity" into worldly places and practices and expect to remain unspotted.

—D. Harkrider

### **November 5, 2023**

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Sermon  
Opening Prayer  
Scripture Reading  
Second Prayer  
Closing Prayer

### **A.M.**

Don Easlon  
Oliver Hernandez  
Allen Weakland  
Don Easlon  
Cody Wesson  
Scot Straw  
David Baldwin

### **P.M.**

Don Easlon  
Craig Wesson  
Allen Weakland  
Don Easlon  
David Ryan  
Charles Wood  
Bill Ryan

**Lord's Supper**

Jacob Carson

Trini Wood

David Ryan

Jr. Munoz

Jon Roemisch

Communion

(In Library)

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Don Easlon 288-5834 — *Deacon:* Craig Wesson 934-4633—*Pulpit:* Cody Wesson 934-4646—*Table:* Jon Roemisch 202-7725 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398— *Contributions:* Jon Roemisch

**Sunday AM**

*“Conquering Evil” (Romans 12:17-21)*

**Sunday PM**

*“Sanctify Christ in Your Heart” (I Peter 3:13-17)*

**Our Records**

*Bible Class... 66*

*Morning Worship...126*

*Evening Worship ... 72*

*Wednesday...84*

*Contribution...\$6,413.25*