

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Fence Straddling Christians

In Matthew 12, Jesus had enormous conflicts with the Pharisees. The Pharisees accused Him of transgressing Moses' law when He picked corn to eat and later healed a man's withered hand, all on the sabbath. Each time Jesus proved that His actions were righteous. All they could do was to become angry and seek how they might destroy Him (Matthew 12:14). Jesus spoke out in defense of the truth!

Later in Matthew 12, Jesus healed one possessed with a devil and the Pharisees came storming up again accusing Jesus of wrong doing. The Pharisees cried, "This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils" (Matthew 12:24). Jesus' reply, "***Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand; And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?***" (Matthew 12:25-26), made them look foolish. The Pharisees' conclusion was totally unreasonable and illogical. Jesus points out that any kingdom, whether physical, spiritual, evil, or good, cannot and "shall not" stand; it will fall, it will be brought to nothing, if it fights against itself. Jesus verbally opposed that which was in error!

Jesus further instructs these Pharisees by declaring, "***He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad***" (Matthew 12:30). In the conflict between good and evil, righteousness and sin, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan, there can be no fence-straddling. Jesus also proclaimed, "***No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and despise the other. Or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon***" (Matthew 6:24).

One of the greatest problems facing the church today is the unwillingness of many of its members to take a stand for truth! Too many opt to ride the fence for fear of hurting someone's feelings, or for fear of losing their popularity! When we straddle the fence in Christianity, we align ourselves with Satan and therefore forfeit our place in Heaven.

One way many have become fence straddling Christians is by their silence. Many in the church know that certain things being done in the brotherhood in various congregations are without Biblical authority. Instead of speaking out in protest, they say nothing. The evil, yea the sin, of silence is clearly seen in the book of Obadiah. God through Obadiah condemned Edom for the terrible things that they had done, saying, "***For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee and thou shalt be cut off forever***" (Obadiah 10) What evil had they committed? "***In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them***" (Obadiah 11). Why was Edom as one of those who had destroyed Jerusalem? Because they did nothing nor said anything! Many on Judgment Day will be sorrowfully surprised when they have to suffer the eternal consequences of their silence.

O, that we all would be like Jeremiah, when he cried, "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in His name. But his word was in mine heart as a flaming fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay" (Jeremiah 20:9). Isaiah was no fence-straddler, for he declared, "***For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth***" (Isaiah 62:1). May we all remember that silence is sometimes golden, but sometimes it is also yellow and sinful. Remember; "Evil prevails when good men are silent."

### ***Placed Membership***

Last Sunday evening, **Jon Easley** expressed a desire to be a part of the Eisenhower congregation and work for the Lord under the leadership of our elders here.

### ***Sympathy***

Our sympathy goes out to Tiffany Rangel for the loss of her cousin, **Jesus Ontiveros**, who passed away on November 5th. His funeral service was held on Wednesday, November 9th with both Ubaldo and Allen conducting the service. Jesus was 23 years old. Keep this family in your prayers.

### ***Prayer Request***

**Maria Anaya** had a light heart attack last Saturday morning. She was taken to the ER at Odessa Regional Hospital. Tests were done last Sunday to see what caused her heart attack. Keep Maria in your prayers.

**Betty Branson** is home with pulled muscles in her back. She is having a lot of pain.

**Bruce Plyer** is in ICU in a Ft. Worth hospital with diabetic related health issues. He needs prayers.

**Lon Howard** has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He underwent additional tests on November 11th. And, **Lana** underwent knee replacement surgery on Thursday, November 10th. Her surgery went well and she was able to go home that evening. Both Lon and Lana need our prayers.

### ***Prayer List***

Rudy Alaniz; Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Cathy Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Mark Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Elaine Huntington; Chuck Keith; Bella Lee; Mildred Lee; Jason Moore; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; Augie Rubalcado; Haley Shook; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; Bill Wood; John Wood.

### ***Eisenhower's Shut-ins***

Glenna Callendar; LaVerne Couch, James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

### ***Youth***

Bible Knowledge ... "Who said this?"

The Apostle Paul said, "I appeal to Caesar" (Acts 25:11)

### ***Office News***

**"Ladies' Christmas Exchange"** at Bonnie Sorenson's, Friday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. Bring a finger food and gift to exchange.

**NOTE:** The **NMCCH** will be here on December 5th to pick up the children's gifts.

No "Pantry Food" items are requested until after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

### **Were We "Forsaking the Assembling"?**

The phrase, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25), is misunderstood by many. Some think a brother or sister in Christ (who is otherwise faithful in

assembling with the saints) is “forsaking the assembling,” if they make a conscious decision not to assemble—but, this is not always so.

Few, if any, think a brother or sister is “forsaking the assembling” when they are ill and have to be hospitalized, or cannot assemble with the saints because their “ox gets in the ditch” (cf. Luke 14:5). Please consider the following personal example.

My wife and I both tested “positive” and were very ill with Covid-19 for weeks. My wife, a juvenile diabetic since age 16, became so ill that she had to be hospitalized early on a Friday morning and was not dismissed from the hospital until the following Monday afternoon. That Sunday she would much rather have assembled with the saints than to be sick in a hospital bed. Sick with Covid-19, but not hospitalized, I also did not assemble with the saints that same Sunday. In all, due to being ill with Covid-19, we did not assemble with the saints for four consecutive Sunday’s.

A couple of those Sundays, though still sick and suffering the effects of Covid-19, physically speaking, we could have assembled with the saints; However, we made the conscious decision not to do so. QUESTION: “By carrying out that decision. Were we guilty of ‘forsaking the assembling’ of the saints? No. The key word here is “forsaking.” We did not “forsake” the assemblies.

We were contagious. Covid-19 is a deadly virus. One that, at this writing, has caused about 350 thousand U.S. deaths (around 580 of those deaths were in Lubbock County). Brethren are not forsaking” the assembly when they sincerely desire to assemble, but opt not to, to prevent the brethren with whom they would assemble from becoming seriously ill, and possibly dying. By the way, faithful Christians are not fatalists who believe “whatever will be, will be”!

—Tommy J. Hicks

<b>November 20, 2022</b>	<b>A.M.</b>	<b>P.M.</b>
Announcements	Don Easlon	Don Easlon
Song Leader	Jacob Carson	Jon Roemisch
Sermon	TBA	TBA
Opening Prayer	Don Easlon	Don Easlon
Scripture	Trini Wood	Isaiah Armendarez
Second Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Bill Ryan
Closing Prayer	Scot Straw	Gary Loving
Lords Supper	<u><a href="#">Jon Roemisch</a></u> Caleb York Steve Easlon Tommy Garcia	Richard Siler Communion (In Library)

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Don Easlon 288-5834— *Deacon:* Bill Ryan 352-4871— *Pulpit:* David Ryan 512-924-0983— *Table:* Richard Siler 556-2151— *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Collections:* Richard Siler

**Sunday AM**

“TBA”

**Sunday PM**

“TBA”