

Eisenhower Church of Christ

A Great Worship Show

Social media affords individuals the opportunity to express their opinions on everything from the ridiculous to the sublime. Some of these opinions are profane. Some are mean and hurtful. Some are just plain stupid. Others demonstrate an obvious lack of understanding about the subject under consideration. One comment that falls into this latter category was a reaction to a worship assembly that one person had attended. The comment was, "A great worship show!" It was accompanied by a picture which showed a praise band performing on a stage bathed in multi-colored spot lights while the audience sat in darkness.

For many professed believers today, this is exactly what worship has become. It is a stage show in which the audience members are spectators as professional musicians and singers belt out rock-like tunes in praise to God. If a video of the event were shown without the sound, it would be nearly impossible to distinguish this event from a secular rock concert. The audience may clap and sing along, and some may even dance in the aisles as the music plays, and at the end of each piece it erupts in applause. At the conclusion everyone goes away with the same feelings of exhilaration that one would experience at a secular show.

Obviously this kind of event appeals to a wide segment of modern society, but is such what worship is supposed to be? Many people think the very idea of asking this question is absurd. The prevailing attitude seems to be that whatever we want to do in worship to God will be just fine with Him. Even a cursory look at the scriptures shows otherwise.

All throughout the Old Testament God was very explicit in how His people were to worship Him. He never left them to their own devices in deciding how to worship. He always told them exactly what He would and would not accept from them. The classic example of this is Nadab and Abihu in (Leviticus 10:1-2). The scripture says they offered strange fire before the Lord, "***Which He had not commanded them.***" As a result, God sent fire from heaven to consume them. The point is that God only accepts worship in the manner He commands.

In the New Testament the summary statement of God's will about worship is made by Jesus in John 4:24. Speaking to the woman at the well in Samaria, the Lord said, "***God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.***" This is a general statement that covers both our attitude as we worship, as well as the manner in which we conduct our worship. Our worship must be sincere, but it must also be what God has commanded.

Our understanding of New Testament worship is a composite of a number of statements and examples. We worship on the first day of the week, because this is when the first century Christians met (Acts 20:7). We sing and make melody with our hearts, as they did (Ephesians 5:15-21). We eat the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7), give of our means (I Corinthians 16:1-2), pray and proclaim the word of God (Acts 2:42). All these things were done by the early Christians in a simple and reverent way, as befitting those coming into the presence of Almighty God.

This is the point that is lost on many modern worshipers. God is the object of our worship, not the people in the pews. Our joy and fulfillment in worship should come from having offered acceptable worship to God, rather than from having been entertained by someone's performance. We don't assemble to put on a great worship show. We assemble to show our love for God by doing what He has commanded us to do.

—Fred Dominguez

Prayer Request

Conchida Williams (Devida's sister) is scheduled to have shoulder replacement surgery Monday, November 23rd in Chillicothe, OH. Keep her in your prayers that all will go well with her surgery.

Remember to keep in prayer all the families in **Paris, France** who lost love ones in the Isis Terrorist attacks Friday, November 13th. Pray that God will give them strength and comfort for their aching hearts.

Also keep in prayer Allison's husband, **Nathan Moyer**, who was not hurt in the attacks in Paris but will be there until the first part of December when he plans to fly back to the states. Pray that Nathan stays safe while there and in his flight back home.

Concerns Update

Meta Troutz (Kim Guynn's mother) has made some improvement in her struggle with pneumonia. Meta is in the long-term care unit (West Campus) at Midland Memorial. Please keep her in your prayers.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Charles Browning; Bill Bundick; Neva Carrigan; Steve Chavez; Cruz Coe; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Nancy Easlon; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Linda Horton; Lon & Lana Howard; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Andrué LaFlure; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Ora McAfee; Jill McAfee; Jack McCarty; Anna McGlothlin; Flossie Montgomery; Patsy Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Maxine Newton; Laura Olivas; Connie Phelps; Trina Plyler; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Andrew Schwarz; Christa Bella Sellers; Brenda Simmons; Meta Troutz; Marilyn Upshaw; Teresa Vires; Lisa Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; Jack Wright

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Ruby Davis; Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Which king created Israel's first merchant navy?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

Palestine was ruled by the Romans at the time of Jesus.

Events

There is a "**Family Devotional**" in the annex tonight (Nov. 22) following our evening service. Girls are to bring drinks and the boys, desserts. For questions, please see Christy Weakland.

We will have a special **Thanksgiving Service** Wednesday, November 25th. All classes from cradle roll up will be in the auditorium for services.

Next Sunday, November 29th, is our “**Fifth Sunday Service**”. We will have a Potluck luncheon after our morning service followed by the evening service. All our visitors are welcome to join us for good food and fellowship.

FYI

Denny Wilson is hosting a weekly radio program called “**Christian Take Aim**” at 6:30 pm Tuesdays; www.thegospelradionetwork.org. Feel free to please pick up a business card on the youth table in the foyer.

Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

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

Our “**Food Pantry**” is low on food. It needs to be kept supplied with food and supplies for the children’s homes and those in need especially at the holiday season.

The **New Mexico Children’s Home** will be in Odessa Tuesday, December 8th for a food drive. They are requesting **Cream of Chicken Soup**. Monetary donations also accepted.

There is a signup sheet in the foyer for those who would like to host a “**Family Devotional**”. We need hosts for 2016. Please put your name beside the month that works for you.

Note: The church office will be closed November 26th and 27th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

November 22, 2015	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Denny Wilson	John Wood
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Larry May	Don Easlon
Second Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Tony Marrs
Closing Prayer	Josh Wells	Denny Wilson
Lord's Supper		
West...	Craig Wesson	John Wood
	Bill Tolbert	Communion
	Dex Dennard	(In Library)
East...	Scot Straw	
	Josh Wells	
	Tommy Garcia	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Allen Weakland 362-1403 *Deacon*: Don Easlon 363-0350 *Pulpit*: Chris Butler 362-7486; *Table*: John Wood 230-0689; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Don Easlon 363-0350
Collections: Don Easlon 363-0350

Sunday AM

“*Entangled*”
(*Exodus 14:3*)

Sunday PM

“*Crucifixion*”
(*Mark 15:21-32*)

Our Records

Bible Class... 79
Morning Worship... 122
Evening Worship... 67
Wednesday... 78
Contribution... \$3,702.89

