

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Just a Vapor

When the patriarch Jacob came before Pharaoh, the Egyptian ruler asked how long he had lived. Jacob's reply revealed his perspective on life in very clear terms. He said, "the years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning" (Genesis 47:9). In this statement Jacob expressed his dissatisfaction with the length of his life because it did not compare to the number of years his ancestors had lived. Such an attitude from a man who had lived 130 years seems incredible in our time, since most of us will never see ninety years, much less 130 years. We're also taken aback by Jacob's characterization of his days as "few and unpleasant," since he was a very wealthy man who had been abundantly blessed by God.

About four hundred years after Jacob and his family entered Egypt, Moses was ordained by God to bring them out of bondage and to lead them to the Promised Land. Moses was eighty years of age at that time, and was 120 years old when he died. Sometime before his passing Moses wrote a psalm that offers his perspective on the length of our lives. In Psalm 90:10 Moses said, "***As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away.***"

The decrease in life span from Jacob's time to Moses' time is interesting. Even though Moses lived much longer than the seventy or eighty years of which he wrote, it seems certain that by the time he wrote Psalm 90 the lifespan of humans had greatly diminished from ancient times. It is striking that nearly 3,500 years after Moses wrote this psalm, human life is still generally limited to seventy or eighty years. Also striking is that Moses' observation about the quality of life is still true today. Most of us would agree that even today life is generally marked by labor and sorrow.

A third perspective on the length of life is seen in the letter written by the Lord's half-brother James. In James 4:14 he said, "***Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.***" James' point of view is disconcerting to us and most of us are unwilling to face up to it. When we are young we live as though we are bullet-proof and will live forever. As we age, we may act more circumspectly, but we generally continue to live as though we will never die. This despite James' inspired warning that our lives, no matter how many years they may encompass, are a vapor.

This imagery is powerful. A vapor is, first of all, of very short duration. Warm breath blown into cold air appears for only moments and then is gone. James is warning us that our lives are just that short in the big picture. Second, a vapor is extremely fragile. It has no inherent strength or structure to resist the forces that work upon it. So, also, are our lives. It only takes a moment for one's life to end. This is a reality that should be sobering to us, especially with a view toward eternity.

The bottom line is that no matter how many years one may live they are just a point on the timeline of life. In addition to this, we are not guaranteed any time beyond the moment that we draw breath. As quickly as a vapor vanishes, one's life can end. For this reason we must insure that we are ready to face God when our vapor vanishes away. Eternity is forever and we must live our lives so we can spend it with the Lord in Heaven.  
—Fred Dominguez

### ***Prayer Request***

Please keep **Winford Hambright** in your prayers. He has been dealing with a low blood count; hemorrhaging is suspected. Winford has been in the hospital twice within the last two weeks for his legs having so much fluid. A blood transfusion was being scheduled for him.

**Letha Hooper** has been diagnosed with Leukemia. She recovered from a light stroke she had earlier this year. However, Letha has reached the point where she can no longer drive. We need to keep her in our daily prayers that she gets the best treatment possible for the Leukemia.

### ***Prayer List***

Elsie Bradford; Bill Bundick; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; Emma Craig; Dana Erwin; Densell Fambro; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Letha Hooper; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Janelle Shirley; Charles Simmons; Anita Smith; Albert Stegall; Jack Straw; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Jimmy Weaver; Josh Wells; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; John Wood;

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

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

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

### ***Youth***

#### **Bible Quiz Question...**

What was the name of the 84 year old Prophet who praised God for the baby Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem? (Luke 2:36-38)

#### **Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...**

Timothy's grandmother's name was Lois and his mother was Eunice. (2 Timothy 1:5)

### ***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***

The "**New Mexico Children's Home**" will be here Tuesday, December 4th for a food pick up. They are requesting **Chocolate Chips and Vanilla**. Monetary donations are also accepted. The home will also be collecting the holiday gifts for the children at the same time.

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

A man's tongue is an index to his mind.

Scandal, crime, failure makes news—but success makes history.

The world is full of people making a good living but poor lives.

## Christianity is a Great Way of Life

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Everything associated with Jesus has life, exuberance and activity. No wonder Paul said, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). How often do we reflect upon and rejoice in, the life we have in Christ? After all, "to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6).

- Jesus has the water of life and is the bread of life (John 4:14; 6:35, 48, 51).
- Jesus has the words of eternal life (John 6:63, 68).
- Jesus has given us all things pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4).
- Jesus gives His followers the light of life (John 8:12).
- Jesus said that God's commandment is life everlasting (John 12:50).
- Jesus said one must come to Him in order to have life (John 5:39-40).
- Jesus called Himself "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).
- Jesus said that "narrow" is the way that leads to life (Matthew 7:14).
- Jesus said that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses (Luke 12:15).
- Jesus has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Timothy 1:10).

"For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:3-4). What a wonderful thought! For a child of God, living should be inconceivable apart from Him. Is this really how living is for you? Life apart from Jesus is mere existence; life in Christ is encouraging, enlightening, exhilarating and eternal.

—Mike Vestal

<b>November 25, 2018</b>	<b>A.M.</b>	<b>P.M.</b>
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Rudy Ochoa	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Jaxon Straw	Richard Siler
Second Prayer	Jr. Munoz	Jeff Wesson
Closing Prayer	Bill Tolbert	George Warren
Lord's Supper		
(Scripture Reading)	<u>Trinidad Wood</u>	
West...	Charles Wood	Jacob Carson
	Dex Dennard	Communion
	Jeff Wesson	(In Library)
East...	Scot Straw	
	Josh Wells	
	Jr. Munoz	

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 *Pulpit:* Bill Brown 703-6225 *Table:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties:* Tommy Garcia 638-2702 *Collections:* Tommy Garcia 638-2702

**Sunday AM**

*“Consolation of David”  
(II Samuel 23:5)*

**Sunday PM**

*“Walking in Christ”  
(Colossians 2:6-7)*