

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Alternatives to the Gospel

Webster defines “alternative” as “the choice between two things.” If I want to go to New York City, there are alternative routes that I might take and still get to my destination. There are also alternative modes of travel. I could ride a bus, train or airplane.

To see the Rose Bowl game live, I must go to Pasadena, California—there is no other choice. If I want to see Madison Square Garden, I must go to New York City—there is no option. If I want to see Big Ben, I must go to London—there is no alternative.

All know that in some areas of life, there are options, but in other areas of life there are no choices. For instance, a man can live without his tonsils and appendix, but he must have a heart, lungs and liver.

There are no alternatives to the Gospel. Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). Bloomfield wrote, “The sense is, for it is the powerful means appointed by God for the salvation of all who believe and embrace it.” There is no alternative to the Gospel.

Some expect a direct impact of the Holy Spirit upon the human spirit to bring conversion. This is in total disregard of the principle affirmed by Jesus, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). Jesus affirmed the free moral agency of man. Man can decide to believe and be baptized, or he can refuse to obey.

Paul said the Gospel reveals the righteousness of God (Romans 1:16-17). The “righteousness of God” does not refer to an attribute or characteristic of God. It refers to the means by which God declares man righteous. Righteousness is justification because of the forgiveness of sins. The Gospel reveals the righteousness of God—there is no alternative!

In Romans 10:1-4 Paul explains that Israel was ignorant of God’s righteousness Paul was not saying that Israel was ignorant of the fact God is a righteous being. He was saying they were ignorant of the means appointed by God by which man could be declared righteous—the Gospel. They, being ignorant of the Gospel plan of salvation, were trying to establish their own righteousness.

Paul told the Corinthians he had begotten them through the Gospel (1 Corinthians 4:15). Peter mentions this begetting, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). He later clarifies the means of this begetting as, “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever” (1 Peter 1:23). The Gospel is the begetting power—there is no alternative!

The Gospel calls us into the service of God. Paul speaks of a “holy calling” (2 Timothy 1:9). He refers to being “called unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9). He also informs us that God “hath called you unto his kingdom and glory” (1 Thessalonians 2:12).

He settles the “how” of the calling when he wrote “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 2:14). Jesus affirmed that no man could come to Him “except the Father which hath sent me draw him” (John 6:44). In the next verse he says, “Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (John 6:45). The only source of our learning of Him is the Gospel. The Gospel calls to obtain glory—there is no alternative!

The Gospel sanctifies us. The Bible ascribes sanctification to God (Jude 1). The truth (John 17:17), faith (Acts 26:1,8), the Word (Ephesians 5:26), God’s Will (Hebrews 10:10), the covenant (Hebrews 10:29), and the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13). This does not mean there are seven different sanctifications. The child of God is sanctified only once, but by all these.

Sanctification is possible for man, with God as its author and the Holy Spirit as the agent through inspired men, who revealed “the word of the truth of the gospel” (Colossians 1:5). It is the Gospel that sanctifies—there is no alternative.

There is no alternative to the Gospel. There is no other means by which man can be saved. When one adds something to the Gospel, he produces a perverted Gospel. Let each of us preach the whole Gospel—nothing more, nothing less.

—Tom Bright

Prayer Request

Hannah Weakland has requested prayers for a co-worker at UTPB. **Dr. Hank Abrams** has cancer and began his chemo treatments last Monday. Please keep him in your prayers that the treatments will be effective on his cancer.

Concern Update

Terresia Weaver got the results from her PET scans last Tuesday, November 30th. It showed that the cancer has spread; it is now stage 4. Terresia’s chemo treatments will be stronger and will change her side-effects. Please keep her in your daily prayer that she will stay strong and fight this cancer.

Rudy Ochoa’s hand surgery was postponed until he gets over his cold and is feeling better. His surgery will be done in San Angelo.

Tiffany Horton underwent surgery last Monday at MCH. The surgery went well and she was able to go home the next day. Tiffany is still in some pain but is expected to feel better each day. She will get the lab test results this week when she goes for her checkup with the surgeon. Tiffany is Tom & Bonnie Sorenson’s daughter. Continue to keep her in your prayers that she will be cancer free.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Paxton Basaldua, Betty Branson; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Hugo Grijalva; Doug Guynn; Rosanna Herrera; Tiffany Horton; Alex Martinez; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Julie Munoz; Cain Pilgrim; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chasidy Rayos; Jackie Rex; Daniel Reyes; Lisa Salas; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; John Wood, Natalynn Wood.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna McCarty; Jackie Rex; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw
Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... (Finish the Beatitude)

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... (?)

Last Week’s Quiz Answer...

“Blessed are the meek...for they will inherit the earth”

Events

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

Thank You

Dear Brethren,

Thank you for the love, support and prayers for the boys, myself and all the Chavez family. Prayers that we know have been heard as our days have been filled with good memories and comfort. May God bless each and every one of you. This is what I’m thankful for...

In Christian Love, Angie, Max & Ezra Chavez

Office News

ATTENTION MEMBERS: When you request prayers for your friends, neighbors or co-workers and would like for the church to send them a signed card, please furnish the office with a correct mailing address for them. There are so many people that are not listed in the telephone book. Thank you.

Focus

A lot of what we accomplish in life depends upon our focus. The story is told of the golfer Arnold Palmer, who, in the 1961 Master's finals was approached by a friend and congratulated on his victory a few shots prior to his finish. Palmer is on record as saying that in that moment he lost his focus and he ended up losing by a point. It happens time and again; there is the football player who looks toward the goal line and drops the ball; the ice skater who falls and simply can't recover to conclude the performance; the politician who misspeaks and ruins his political career all for a lack of focus.

Out of all of the kings of Israel, David was arguably the greatest; he had his problems, but he always ultimately sought to put his trust in the Lord. Nevertheless, because David was a man of war, his greatest desire, to build the Lord a house, could not be accomplished by him. David however, purposed to do all the he could toward the construction of the temple prior to his death. He made agreements with nations for materials; he collected materials; he assembled workers. Before his death, David commanded the princes of Israel to help Solomon build the temple (1 Chronicles 2:17). He exhorted them, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD" (1 Chronicles 22:19). Do we see the focus in the words, "Set your heart and soul to seek the Lord your God"? Because they focused upon seeking God, they were able to accomplish the task at hand.

—Kevin Cauley

December 5, 2021	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Jackie Perkins	David Ryan
Second Prayer	Gary Loving	Jacob Carson
Closing Prayer	Don Easlon	Jeff Wesson
Lords Supper		Jr. Munoz
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	<u>Cody Wesson</u>	Communion
	Richard Siler	(In Library)
	Bill Ryan	
	Tommy Garcia	

Other Responsibilities: **Elder:** Allen Weakland 254-8209 —**Deacon:** Bill Ryan 352-4871 - **Pulpit:** Tom Sorenson 638-9447 —**Table:** Jr. Munoz 212-2231 —**Song Leaders:** Larry May 638-3990—**Recording Sermons:** John Wood 413-7444— **Collections:** Jr. Munoz 212-2231

Sunday AM

"Reasonable Expectations"
(Hebrews 10:26-31)

Sunday PM

"Changing Lives Through Preaching"
(1 Thessalonians 2:1-6)