

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Bad Times

People who “see the glass as being half full” are said to be optimists. On the other hand, people who “see the glass as being half empty” are said to be pessimists. Such notions are illogical to realists because they know that if the glass is half full, then it has to be half empty (and vice versa). Realists see the glass and its contents for what they are (in this case, half full and half empty at the same time.) Bearing these thoughts in mind...

Are things in today’s society really as bad as they seem? Let us see. People have lost confidence in the congressional, the judicial, and the executive branches of government. Anarchists are in the streets, lawlessness abounds, crime is epidemic and police officers are being assassinated. Single and mass murders of the young and the old are commonplace. Economists are terror-struck due to the trade deficit and the national debt being greater than it has ever been-and, because millions of citizens are out of work they venture that we are on the brink of a catastrophic economic depression. A craze for every kind of immorality (homosexuality, adultery, men and women “shacking up together,” ad infinitum) has swept the nation with the powerful help of a “politically correct” Supreme Court, which gives it the force of law. God is denied altogether by atheists and He is ignored by theists– and, both welcome with open arms the Bible-rejecting, skeptic-generating, unscientific theory of evolution preached by “science” (falsely so called). Church attendance is down as a result of the materialistic, secular and worldly church members’ refusal to hold fast to the sound doctrine contained with the pages of God’s plenary verbally inspired book. With so much, so wrong, does it not appear that we have passed the point of no return in all of these (and many more) areas? Make no mistake about it, things are as bad as they seem– and, they are probably even worse than we can imagine! However, to use an overworked cliché, “It is always darkest just before the dawn.”

Consider how bad the state of the world was when Christ was born. Then, think back history’s “Dark Ages” and the “Renaissance,” which followed. Some might find it hard to believe, but shortly after the American Revolutionary War the United States was religiously bankrupt. The war had disrupted the regular Lord’s Day services. Immorality was encouraged and influence by the French Soldiers’ presence. Furthermore, “The writings of Voltaire were welcomed by its intelligentsia as a means of emancipating mankind from religious tyranny and the introduction of the new age of reason” (Christians Only, James DeForest Murch, p. 19). “Infidel clubs,” as they were called, were very popular. Some of the women in those clubs boasted that there was no way possible to know the fathers of their children. Times were so bad that even the church schools were seats of infidelity. According to Murch, “when the Freshman class entered Yale in the fall of 1796, only one was a professing Christian, the sophomore class contained none, the Junior one, and the Senior only eight or ten” (ibid., p.22). Princeton in the year of 1792, only had one student who professed to be a Christian. Truly, those were dark years for the United States, but they are almost forgotten because of the great religious awakening that followed. A very special and glorious part of that awakening was the work done by Thomas and Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone, Walter Scott, and many others who wanted to restore primitive Christianity in its principle and practice. Were things as bad as they seemed before the great religious awakening of America? Indeed they were! Yet, from history we learn that bad times more surely can give way to better times.

The United States may continue in its degenerate direction and be lost forever, as many nations have done before. Perhaps, it shall continue on for centuries, but in order for it to do so, the nation as a whole must first come to its senses. One thing is certain, God’s Word will never be destroyed, it will remain forever (Matthew 24:35). The apostle Peter said, “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God*” (I Peter 1:23). For as long as

that Word abides there will be Christians; therefore, the church will exist forever. Jesus Christ said, *“I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”* (Matthew 16:18). There will be times when the growth of the church will be fantastic (cf. Acts 2:47; 6:1). Then, there will be times when growth of the church will be slow (cf. 2 Timothy 4:3-4). The growth of the church and the attitude of the people of the world may be due in large part to problems of the day and how bad things really are. When things get bad enough, history has demonstrated that men can and will turn to God for help. He will be there ready to give it. This is when the light will come out of the darkness. May it come soon.

—Tommy J. Hicks

### ***Sympathy***

Our sympathy goes out to Ora McAfee in the loss of her sister, **Lorena Roberts**, who passed from this life on November 17th. Lorena lived in Wilmer, TX. Her services were held there. Ora McAfee also lost her niece, **Susan Lee Lott**, on November 23rd in Cloudcroft, NM. Please keep Ora and all her family in your prayers during this difficult time of loss.

### ***Prayer Request***

**Tracie Halbert** is scheduled to undergo surgery Tuesday, December 13th in Lubbock, TX. Her pre-surgery tests were done Tuesday, December 6th. Keep Tracie in your daily prayers that all will go well with her surgery.

Please keep **Mary Brown in your prayers** as she is still having pain in her neck. Please pray that the injection she is scheduled to have will alleviate the pain.

**Crystal Card**, sister to a good friend of Carrie Basaldua, has a blood infection and was on an IV. Crystal's fever was so high she had to be packed in ice. They do not know the cause of the infection. Crystal lives in Altus, OK.

### ***Concerns Update***

Please keep in your daily prayer the brethren in Gatlinburg, TN who lost their homes to the fire and also the church building there.

### ***Prayer List***

David Alaniz; Lee Roy Bell, Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Bill Bundick; Mitchell Bundick; Sissy Bundick; Betty Burns; Glynn Chandler; Barbara Crowder; Ruby Davis; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Shane Ford; Melida Frazier; Jane Gibbons; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Lon Howard; Charles Jones; Janis Laminack; Connie Lowe; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Rudy Ochoa; Trina Plyler; Lester Savoy; Cynthia Schulze; Andrew Schwarz; Janelle Shirley; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; John Tessoroff; Marilyn Upshaw; James Weaver; Judy Wells; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; John Wood; Toya Zambelli.

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

Ruby Davis; Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

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...**

Jesus met and talked to a woman by Jacob's well near Sychar. Is it true or false that Sychar was in Judea just across the mountain range which divided Judea and Samaria?

## Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

The following quotation was spoken by Jesus in **The High Priestly Prayer**...*"These words spake Jesus and lifted his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy son, that thy son may also glorify thee."* (John 7)

## 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.

## Thank You

Dear Eisenhower family,

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in bringing the "Snack Bag" to our family in MCH. Shane is continuing to make progress each day because of Christians praying for him. We've truly seen God working in our family. Thank you Larry May and Allen Weakland for the visit to us while he was in surgery.

In Christian Love,

Teresa Ford of Parkview

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

My name is Marlin Poynor. I am one of the Board members of the New Mexico Christian Children's Home in Portales. The purpose of my note to you is to personally thank each of you for your generous support to the home. The Home has helped many children because of people like you who view children as important people just as Jesus did in Matt. 18:1-6.

Sincerely,

Marlin Poynor

## Office News

There will be a **"Ladies Gift Exchange Party"** at Bonnie Sorenson's home Monday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. Ladies please come and join in on the fun.

## Food for Thought...

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

**December 11, 2016 A.M.**

Announcements	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Rudy Ochoa
Sermon	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Cody Wesson
Second Prayer	Bill Tolbert
Closing Prayer	George Warren

**P.M.**

Jeff Wesson
Cody Wesson
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Isaiah Armendarez
Charles Wood
Rudy Ochoa

Lord's Supper

West...

Bill Brown

Don Easlon

Dex Dennard

East...

Jacob Carson

Richard Siler

Sonny Coggins

Tony Marrs

Communion

(In Library)

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder;* Jeff Wesson 556-5547 *Deacon;* John Wood 413-7444 *Pulpit;* John Wood 413-7444 *Table;* Tony Marrs 553-7349 *Song Leaders;* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties;* Chris Butler 362-7486 *Collections;* Chris Butler 362-7486

### **Sunday AM**

*"What is Christianity All About?"*

*(Romans 14:13-18)*

### **Sunday PM**

*"Challenge to Follow Christ"*

*(Matthew 8:18-22)*

### **Our Records**

*Bible Class...* 68

*Morning Worship...*116

*Evening Worship...*68

*Wednesday...*75

*Contribution...*\$5,038.20