

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## “The ‘Sect’ Everywhere Spoken Against”

This was the language the apostle Paul met when finally he arrived in Rome, under charges, awaiting his hearing before Caesar, Paul had called the chief of the Jews together (Acts 28:17), and made explanation as to the events that brought him thus to Rome, pointing out that he was in chains “for the hope of Israel” (Acts 28:20). The Jewish leadership pointed out to him that they had received no words there against him and that they desired to hear from him, *“for as concerning this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken against”* (Acts 28:22).

In their use of sect, they no doubt were thinking in terms of the church of the Lord, and the way Paul had chosen in his rejection of Judaism, and saw in the Christian system merely a way of heresy broken off from Judaism itself. Such would naturally be the thoughts of Jews of that day, being far from Jerusalem, and knowing that the church of the Lord had its beginning in that city and on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1,47).

More than merely the sect designation, these Jewish leaders admit that they have heard nothing of good concerning Paul’s current fellowship, and that the general feeling (and among the Jews) was that it “was everywhere spoken against.” It needs to be noted that Paul did not immediately apologize and then try to accommodate himself and the message to the “think-so’s” of men, so that they would then speak well of it all. He met with the leadership again (Acts 28:23), teaching them the truths of God in the powerful way characteristic of him, and administered them a stern rebuke when he saw hardness in their hearts (Acts 28:24-28).

He also made it plain to them that, regardless of how they had characterized the church, thinking of it as a sect, and thus not worth much consideration from them, teaching these truths amounted to teaching salvation. Thus, in their hardness and rejection, he promised to turn to the Gentiles and to take salvation to them (Acts 28:28). Luke tells us that Paul spent two full years there as he waited on Caesar’s pleasure, and all the while he preached the kingdom of God and the Christ (Acts 28:30-31). It is of value to see that while some called the way a sect, still Paul preached on the way. Criticism or mockery does not occasion a change in the message or the power with which God wants it delivered.

Those in the kingdom today still hear the charge that we constitute a sect or a denomination. Years ago a denominational preacher, upset at somethings we had printed, in truth, concerning the very unique position the church of the Lord maintains in the religious world, said: “You are a denomination and you have to be a denomination, whether you want to be or not!” Upon his leaving, I thought, “Wouldn’t it be a tragedy if such was so...that we would have to be exactly what the Lord and the apostles said we must not be? We’d have no chance of being saved, since we could not be all the Lord wants of us and in fact had to be what the Lord prayed against and taught against!” (John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10)

Men make the charge that the church of Jesus Christ is a sect or denomination simply due to (1) Ignorance or (2) Prejudice or both. Ignorance among religious leaders is no new thing, as evidenced in Matthew 22:29. Prejudice among the same people is again no new thing, as evidenced by the Lord’s repeated rebuke of them in Matthew 23. In our present time, we find leaders (preachers, teachers, elders, etc.) who are buying the denominational line that the church is merely a

denomination. Once convinced along these low lines, it is not surprising that among such people we find every denominational mark. We are delighted, though, that in believing the Word, obeying the Word and living by the Word, the church of Jesus Christ exists and that it is not sectarian and it is not denominational! If it is of the New Testament order, it would have to be free of all sectarian marks!

—Bill Jackson

### ***Prayer Requests***

Please keep **Jr. Munoz** in your prayers. He did not get a good report back from a test he had done on Tuesday, December 10th. Jr. has a follow up appointment with the doctor on December 23rd. He is requesting prayers.

Prayers have been requested for **Andrea Berry** (daughter of Bill and Vickie Ryan). Andrea had a cyst removed from her foot last Tuesday, December 10th. Keep her in your prayers that she has a fast healing.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Conchida Williams** will get her test results from her last MRI on December 26th. Hopefully they will find out why she is still having back and hip pain. Prayers are requested for her.

### ***Prayer List***

Brian Basaldua; Don Blackwell; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Cindy Campbell; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Emma Craig; Ronald Dement; Bessie Diaz; Loyce Driver; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Thomas Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Winford Hambright; Irene Hernandez; Leo Holloway; Letha Hooper; Vertie Howard; Betty Leeth; Jed Martin; Ora McAfee; Krysta McMullen; Jason Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Juanita Oroasco; Caydon Parker; Trina Plyler; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Bill Ryan; Debra Shipley; Janelle Shirley; Charles & Susan Simmons; Mark Thompson; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Jay Wesson; Tom Wilcox; Carolyn Wilkerson; Sondie Williamson; John Wood.

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

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

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...**

How old was Abraham when he was circumcised? (Genesis 17:24)

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

Nathanael joined Thomas James & John for a breakfast that Jesus cooked on the shore.

### ***Events***

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

### ***Thank you***

Dear Church family, First, I have not abandoned my "church family" I have had a few health issues which prevent me from driving or walking and getting out much. Thank you all so much for the calls, cards and the awesome "goodie box" prepared and delivered to me! Words are not enough to express how much I love the church and the Lord.

Jackie Rex

Dear Ladies,

Don and I want to thank you all for the delicious cookies and candies. We are enjoying them a lot. We appreciate you all for remembering us older members.

In Christian Love, Don & Hazel Cavanaugh

### **Office News**

#### **DECEMBER ATTENDED NURSERY**

12/15/19 Ashley & Holly

12/22/19 Nancy E. & Devida

12/29/19 Virgie & Gloria

### Foundation

Knowing that the church is built (Matthew 16:18) upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, and thus that it will stand forever (Daniel 2:44), will cause Christians to appreciate the fact that time and culture cannot alter the makeup of the church.

Many man-made churches of today are in the midst of a crisis of identity because they are trying to make their churches fit into the cultural context. Should the church ordain women as pastors, priests, etc.? Should 'the church' accept homosexuals into full fellowship? How should "the church" handle the issue of abortion? These are questions that most prominent denominations struggle with today, because they see the church as a changing body that must keep pace with man's ever-changing ideas.

Jesus is the foundation of the church and Jesus does not change. The book of Hebrews proclaims "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). The point of that statement can be seen in the next verse, "Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines." (Heb. 13:9). Since Jesus is unchanging and since He is the foundation of the church, then it must follow that the church also is unchanging. Various sorts of doctrines that are foreign to the teaching of Christ must be rejected, not adopted, for Jesus does not change. God's eternal purpose (Eph. 3:11) was sufficient for all ages. Therefore, whenever human society becomes inconsistent with the church, it is society that needs to change, not the church. "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:21, Eccl. 7:1).

—Richard Stevens, III

### **December 15, 2019**

#### **A.M.**

#### **P.M.**

Announcements

Allen Weakland

Allen Weakland

Song Leader

Jaxon Straw

Jacob Carson

Sermon

Allen Weakland

Allen Weakland

Opening Prayer

Allen Weakland

Allen Weakland

Scripture

Gary Loving

Jaxon Straw

Second Prayer

Rudy Ochoa

Tom Sorenson

Closing Prayer

Charles Wood

Doug Guynn

Lord's Supper

(Scripture Reading)

Tommy Garcia

West...

Don Easlon

John Wood

Miguel Lozano

Communion

Scot Straw

(In Library)

East

Oliver Hernandez

David Ryan

Bill Ryan

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* : Allen Weakland 254-8209—*Deacon*: Tommy Garcia 638-2702 — *Pulpit*:—Jr. Munoz—363-1309 *Table*: John Wood 413-7444 — *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons*: Richard Siler 556-2151—*Collections*: Richard Siler 556-2151

### **Sunday AM**

*“Challenges of X-Mas”*  
(Luke 2:1-7)

### **Sunday PM**

*“The Lion’s Den”*  
(Daniel 6:10-17)

### **Our Records**

*Bible Class... 70*  
*Morning Worship...100*  
*Evening Worship...57*  
*Wednesday...99*  
*Contribution...\$4,657.00*