

Eisenhower Church of Christ

“The Disciples Were Called Christians”

Approximately seven-hundred years before Jesus Christ was born, God made it known that a day was coming when He would give His children a **“new name.”** God said, **“I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off”** (Isaiah 56:5). Further, Isaiah 62:2 states, **“And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.”**

What was that **“new name”** God would give to His children, a name by which they were to be known? Was it “Baptist”? “Catholic”? “Episcopalian”? “Lutheran”? “Methodist”? “Presbyterian”? “Quaker”? No Scripture indicates that any of those names was the “new name” given by God as the designation for His children. In fact, there is no Scriptural basis for any of those man-originated, self-given names. Such names are of human origin (man) not God.

Carefully note the source of the **“new name”** as revealed in the emphasized phrases, **“I will give them an everlasting name.”** And **“a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.”** In Isaiah 56:5 and 62:2, respectively. While those Isaiah passages do not reveal what that **“new name”** was to be, they do make it clearly known that the **“new name”** was to be given by God, not man. This fact should be recognized and respected by all, and especially so by God’s children.

Luke reveals the **“new name”** and its source. He recorded, **“and the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch”** (Acts 11:26). The word **“called”** in that verse is very significant. It is translated from the Greek word *chrematisai* (verb infinitive aorist active of *chrematizo*). This word is defined as follows:

“...of what God makes known” (Friberg Greek Lexicon)

“...to make known a divine revelation— ‘to make know God’s message, to reveal a message from God.’” (Louw-Nida Greek Lexicon).

In every case where the Greek word *chrematizo* and its derivations are found in the New Testament, Heaven—God—is its source or origin. Thus, in keeping with Isaiah’s prophecy, God in Heaven is the origin of the name **“Christian,”** which makes the name **“Christian”** a holy designation for every sanctified citizen (Heb. 10:10,14) in God’s **“holy nation”** (1 Peter 2:9). People need to understand this Bible fact. It is there for anyone and everyone to see.

It is also a Bible fact that the Baptists, Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Quakers, and infinitum, cannot justify any of their self-chosen sectarian names by the Bible. In the Bible, no member of Christ’s church was ever called by any of those names. Regrettably, this does not seem to matter to the vast numbers of folks who make up the schismatic sects, which is what all denominationally named churches are. Most often when they are reminded that the Bible says **“the disciples were called Christians,”** rather than unreservedly embracing that distinctive name, they abuse and cheapen it by hyphenating it, calling themselves Baptist-Christians, Catholic-Christians, Episcopalian-Christians, Lutheran-Christians, Methodist-Christians, Presbyterian-Christians,” Quaker-Christians, etc. what impudence! They even put their party names before the name Christian. No justification for any “hyphenated-Christians” can be found in the bible. Actually, the doctrine of Christ denies that such “hyphenated-Christians” are Christians at all.

Whether because of their ignorance or dishonesty (or both), some denigrate the name “Christian” by claiming the enemies of Christ’s disciples used that name to ridicule and contemptuously mock them. That is sheer poppycock. There is no indication in the Acts 11:26 context that the Christians at Antioch were being mocked or ridiculed or that the term

“Christian” was being used derogatorily. If the word “Christian” was a term of derision the unbelieving King Agrippa did not know it. He told Paul, **“Almost thou persuade me to be a Christian”** (Acts 26:28). The apostle Peter did not consider it ridicule or mockery to be called by the name **“Christian.”** To the contrary, he exhorted, **“Yet if any man suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf”** (1 Peter 4:16). Truth is, of all appellatives applied to man in God’s Word, **“Christian”** is the highest and greatest.

Tommy J. Hicks

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Marshall Ipson** who lost his battle with cancer on Wednesday, December 7th. Marshall was a member of the Andrews Church of Christ and a good friend to Gary Loving. Keep this family in your prayers.

Prayer Request

Glenna Callendar was admitted into ORMC last Sunday. She was diagnosed with bilateral pneumonia, an e-coli infection and a UTI. Glenna did not have a heart attack. They want her to rest and let the antibiotics do their job. She was looking at a hospital stay of 2 to 3 days. Keep Glenna in your prayers.

Charles Lewis, Wilene Wright’s brother, is at the Sienna Nursing Home. He was placed under Hospice Care last week. Charles is 81 years old. Wilene has requested prayers for him.

Cesar Benavides was diagnosed with the Covid virus last week and is in quarantine at this time. No report as to whether or not the rest of the family has it. Keep Cesar and his family in your prayers.

Concerns Update

Ken Orr is doing okay. His wife, **Angie**, just had her 9th surgery. She is off the ventilator and able to talk. This couple is Melissa Moore’s brother and sister-in-law who had a bad car accident a few weeks ago in Ft. Worth.

Yolanda Hernandez who is in ORMC being treated for Flu A and an obstruction of the small intestine is making progress. Yolanda is Oliver’s wife. She is in need of prayers.

Prayer List

Rudy Alaniz; Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Cathy Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Mark Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Lon & Lana Howard; Elaine Huntington; Paula Jones; Chuck Keith; Mildred Lee; Jason Moore; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Ken & Angie Orr, Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; Augie Rubalcado; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; Roger & Conchida Williams; Bill Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Glenna Callendar; LaVerne Couch, James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

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

Events

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

Youth

Bible Knowledge ... "Who said this?"

Jonah said, "Now, O Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." (Jonah 4:3)

The Way of Christ

Asked about his occupation, a Christian replied, "My business is being a Christian; I earn my living as an insurance inspector." This statement expresses the true Christian philosophy. Christianity is a way of life, a vocation, not an avocation. Until this principle is burned into one's soul, he cannot truly appreciate what it means to be a child of God. We should learn how every aspect of the Christian's life is controlled by the fact that he is walking in the Christian way.

Christ—the Way. Jesus teaches, "***I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me***" (John 14:6). All other efforts to gain access to God have failed. Only through Christ can one learn the truth showing the way to life eternal.

The Way—Manner of Life. The man who said his business was being a Christian was expressing that the Christian life is more important for the child of God than anything else. Jesus stated, "***But seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be yours***" (Matthew 6:33). Neither work, pleasure, nor home can properly come before Christ. "He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:37-38).

The Way—A Fellowship. The Bible indicates that the church and its fellowship was the center of the lives of early Christians. Today the church is thought of as non-essential addendum. It is placed in the same category as the P.T.A. or a club. Just, as many work to make these organizations successes, but regard them as dispensable, some Christians will labor long for the church without recognizing that this body is *The Way* the core of spiritual living in Jesus Christ.

The Way—A Road. Jesus portrays the *Way* as a road leading to eternal life. He exhorted, "***Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.***" (Matthew 7:13-14).

—Selected

December 18, 2022

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Larry May
Jon Roemisch
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Richard Siler
Doug Guynn
Jacob Carson

P.M.

Larry May
Cody Wesson
Allen Weakland
Larry May
David Ryan
Jeff Wesson
Oliver Hernandez

Lords Supper

Trini Wood
Jeff Wesson
David Ryan
Scot Straw

Tommy Garcia
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990— *Deacon:* Craig Wesson 934-4633— *Pulpit:* Jacob Carson 940-3775— *Table:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332— *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 — *Collections:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332

Sunday AM

“The Challenges of this Holiday Season”
(Luke 2:1-7)

Sunday PM

“It Took a Woman”
(Judges 4:1-4)

Our Records

Bible Class... 67

Morning Worship...101

Evening Worship ... 55

Wednesday...70

Contribution...\$5,378.00