

Nevertheless, there are some things I can do. I can seek, with God's help, to grow in Christlike character. I can be kind and considerate of others, and I can refrain from malicious or hurtful behavior. And when someone else wrongs or inconveniences me, I can remember how much God has forgiven me.

<http://devotional.upperroom.org/devotionals/2012-10-05>

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

- James 5:16 (NRSV)

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

Edmund Burke, British philosopher  
[http://thinkexist.com/quotes/edmund\\_burke/](http://thinkexist.com/quotes/edmund_burke/)

### – News –

**Joy Gibson** will be having surgery on her neck/back on October 10 at Tucson Medical Center. Please pray that Joy will have the absolute best results from the surgery.

**Ben Atchley** has an appointment at Mayo Clinic on Oct. 11th. Please pray that they will find something that will help Ben in his cancer fight.

### Prayer List

**Healing:** Joy Gibson, Chuck Brooks, Faye Atchley, Herman Atchley, Ben Atchley, Nicolas Self, Annie Self, Douglas Gardner, Brandon (Gerry Clark's grandson), Diane Cocks's brother-in-law Dave Smith, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

**Travels:** Gerry Clark.

Back issues of this publication can be downloaded from  
<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

**7 October 2012**

## Sermon Topics:

**AM: The Parable of Yeast**

Matt 13:33-35

**PM: A Time for Everything**

Ecc 3:1-8

Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-5974

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

## Costly Grace

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace.

Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheap-jack's wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?

Cheap grace means grace as a doctrine, a principle, a

system. It means forgiveness of sins proclaimed as a general truth, the love of God taught as the Christian "conception" of God. An intellectual assent to that idea is held to be of itself sufficient to secure remission of sins. The Church which holds the correct doctrine of grace has, it is supposed, ipso facto a part in that grace. In such a Church the world finds a cheap covering for its sins; no contrition is required, still less any real desire to be delivered from sin. Cheap grace therefore amounts to a denial of the living Word of God, in fact, a denial of the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Grace alone does everything, they say, and so everything can remain as it was before. "All for sin could not atone." The world goes on in the same old way, and we are still sinners "even in the best life" as Luther said. Well, then let the Christian live like the rest of the world, let him model himself on the world's standards in every sphere of life, and not presumptuously aspire to live a different life under grace from his old life under sin. That is what we mean by cheap grace, the grace which amounts to the justification of sin without the justification of the repentant sinner who departs from sin and from whom sin departs. Cheap grace is not the kind of forgiveness of sin which frees us from the toils of sin. Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves.

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the Cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows Him.

Costly grace is the Gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is

grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it costs God the life of His Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon His Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but deliver Him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.

Costly grace is the sanctuary of God; it has to be protected from the world, and not thrown to the dogs. It is therefore the living word, the Word of God, which He speaks as it pleases Him. Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus. It comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. Grace is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow Him; it is grace because Jesus says: "My yoke is easy and My burden light."

[Source: "Devotional Classics" edited by Richard J. Foster & James B. Smith; "The Cost of Discipleship" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. <http://www.rc.net/wcc/readings/heroe30a.htm>]

## Just a Prank

Robby Lucke (Florida, USA)

Many years ago I drove to another city one rainy afternoon to see a baseball game. After the game was over, I drove through a large puddle in the parking lot and splashed a group of people. I did so intentionally, thinking it would be fun — just a prank. I heard one woman exclaim, "My new dress!" Others in the group started to react angrily. I quickly drove away to escape their wrath.

I didn't enjoy the prank; I felt guilty then and afterward. Although I have forgiveness in Christ for this and my other sins, (see Eph. 1:7), I still feel lingering regret and remorse when I recall that incident. If I could, I would write or telephone those people, apologize, ask their forgiveness, and offer to make restitution such as reimbursing them for the cost of cleaning their soiled garments. But I cannot do that. I don't know their names; I never even got a good look at their faces.