

Some thoughts:

There's no doubt that the Bible remains the best guide to what God wants to say about himself, about his people, about his son Jesus Christ and about his world. That's a pretty good reason [to read the Bible].

– Helen Moore, Fellow and Tutor, University Lecturer (CUF) in English, Oxford

What if I had to bet my life on whether the things the Bible says that Jesus said about himself are true? Actually, that's exactly what I have to do!

– Neil Short

News:

Please continue to pray for Tatyana's daughter Olga who is undergoing treatments for cancer.

Prayer List:

Healing: Jerry Robinson's daughter Christie, Jerry Robinson's mother Norma. Mike Cavasos, Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Douglas and Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.
Travels: John and Sharron Cunningham, Tatyana Knowlton. **Sympathy:** Sharron Cunningham and family.

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Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

19 May 2013

Sermon Topics

A.M.: The Mark of the Beast

Revelation 13

P.M.: Praise to the LORD

Isaiah 25

Pulpit 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.

Why Should I Fear?

Miles Custis, Bible Study Magazine, March/April 2013
on Psalm 49

Psalm 49 is a wisdom psalm in which the psalmist invites all people to hear wisdom (49:1-4). Wisdom psalms focus on teaching or instruction rather than praise or worship. However, wisdom in the Old Testament has a moral aspect; it is closely related to fearing or trusting in God (see Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 15:33; Job 28:28). How would you describe the relationship between wisdom and fearing God? Can someone be wise without fearing God? Why or why not?

The psalmist talks about not fearing the wickedness of those who trust in their wealth (Psalm 49:5-6). What reasons does he give (49:7-9)? Why would he fear the iniquity of the wealthy? How can you apply this to a modern context?

In Psalm 49:10-12, the psalmist discusses how all people – wise or foolish –

will die. What point is he making with this observation? Is this thought encouraging? The book of Ecclesiastes also makes this observation. Read Ecclesiastes 2:12-21. What point does that passage make about humanity's shared fate? How is this different than the point made in Psalm 49 (compare Ecclesiastes 2:18-21 with Psalm 49:16-17)?

How does the psalmist contrast the upright with those who have foolish confidence (49:13-15)? How does he portray an eternal perspective (49:16-20)? How does this encourage you during temporary struggles? In what ways can 49:15 be understood as a response to 49:5-6?

For other wisdom psalms, read Psalms 14, 37, 73 and 112. What lessons can you make from these psalms? What are some tangible steps you can take to incorporate these teachings into your life?

What it Means to Seek God

by Drew Haninger
John 16:22-24

What is it to pray and how do you pray? "When My people, who bear My name (that means the Lord's people, you and me), humble themselves, pray, and seek My favor and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from My heavenly abode (or from heaven) and hear and forgive their sins and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14). It says we are to humble ourselves. This verse has become a rather popular verse today on the subject of prayer because it contains several principles on prayer.

I believe we should accept this passage as applying to us today. There are several things mentioned in this passage and I would like to quickly go over some of them. First of all it says, "My people." It doesn't just say, "Hey you people over there." It says My people, His own personal people, "who bear My name." We, as Christians, bear God's name.

It says we are to humble ourselves. What does that mean? This means to admit who we are, and be willing to admit our failures, problems, and so on. It says to, "Pray and seek My favor." What does it mean to pray? We are to seek His favor, seek after God, and after the things of God. We are to turn from our evil ways. In other words, it is one thing to seek after God, but it is another thing to turn away from things we know God is not happy with.

Adapted from *Prayer in the Lord's Name, and Several Other Points on Prayer*

The Star Spangled Banner

by Francis Scott Key, 1814

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country should leave us no more!
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!