

language could not be clearer. Persecuting (and disparaging) the church is the equivalent of persecuting Jesus Himself.

(5) You cannot separate Jesus from His church because **we are reconciled to God by Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) **in the one body** (Ephesians 4:4), **which is the church** (Colossians 1:24). "And that he might reconcile both unto god in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Ephesians 2:16, KJV).

(6) You cannot separate Jesus from His church because **He promised to present it to Himself** (Ephesians 5:27; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:24).

(7) You cannot separate Jesus from His church because **God does not have children outside His family**. The church is the house (i.e. family) of God (1 Timothy 3:15). To become a member of god's family, one must be born into it (John 3:3-5). When one is born again, he is saved and added to god's family, the church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47). To teach a person can be a child of God but not a part of his family is to accuse God of spiritual adultery!

It is true that horrible atrocities have been committed in the name of the church. Yet, the sins of humanity do not justify the rejection of the church of which Jesus is the Architect (Matthew 16:18-20). The church was in the eternal purpose of God (Ephesians 3:10-11). One cannot follow Jesus without being a part of the church He died to establish (Acts 20:28).

News:

Please offer sympathy to and prayers for the family of Douglas Gardner who passed last Sunday.

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

Prayer List:

Healing: *Jerry Robinson's mother Norma. Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.*
Travels: *Tatyana Knowlton, John and Sharon Cunningham, Louella Briggs.*

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Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

30 June 2013

Sermon Topics

A.M.: God's People

Isaiah 43:1-13

P.M.: Government with Justice

Isaiah 32

Wednesday: Singing

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.

God's presence

Miles Custis, Bible Study Magazine

Read Psalm 51.

We might turn especially to this psalm when we feel the full weight of our sin against God. However, we all need God's mercy on a daily basis, and Psalm 51 is a passionate prayer for that mercy and forgiveness. The title associates this psalm with David's sin with Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11-12.

The psalmist begins by asking God to have mercy on him. He wants not only for God to forgive his sins, but also to purify him and make him clean. Do you regularly confess your sins to God and ask for His forgiveness? Read what the New Testament says about the confession of sins in 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16. What steps can you take to make confessing your sins a regular part of your spiritual life?

JULY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Singing Night	4 Independence Day	5 Singing @ Northside church of Christ, Tucson. 7:30-9:00 P.M.	6
7 Pastries and coffee in the annex at 9 A.M.	8	9 Ramadan begins	10	11	12	13 Singing: Camelback church of Christ 6:30 – 7:30 Jimmy Johnson's birthday
14 Cindy Waller's birthday Ben Atchley's birthday	15	16	17	18 Louella and Greg Briggs' anniversary	19	20
21 POTLUCK	22	23	24	25	26	27 Jonda Gardner's birthday
28 Parents' Day Kyle Cocke's birthday	29	30	31			

The psalmist acknowledges his wrongdoing, saying that he sinned against God alone (Psalm 51:4). This fits with David's response to Nathan when he is confronted about his sin (2 Samuel 12:13). What does this response tell you about how God views sin? Do you think more about how your sin affects other people or how it affects God? How is Jesus' teaching about anger in the Sermon on the Mount related to our sin against God and others (see Matthew 5:21-26).

In Psalm 51:7-12, the psalmist pleads for cleansing and restoration. He asks God not to take away His presence. How does that request compare with Psalm 139:7-12 (see also 1 Samuel 16:14)? What led God to remove His Spirit from Saul? How can we be confident that God will not remove His presence from us (compare 1 John 4:13-16)?

The psalmist does not ask for mercy for its sake alone. He plans to use God's forgiveness in his life to teach others of God's great mercy (Psalm

51:13-15). Do you keep your forgiveness hidden from others? How can you use the forgiveness God has extended to you to teach others about His character and salvation?

According to psalm 51:16-17, what kind of sacrifices does God desire? What does it mean to have a "broken spirit?" Would you describe your heart as "broken and contrite?" How do the sacrifices of God in Psalm 51:17 compare with Paul's instructions to present ourselves as a "living sacrifice" (see Romans 12:1-2)?

Forget the Church – Follow Jesus?

Douglas Teague, Think Magazine. October 2012

The cover of the April 9 edition of *Newsweek* was emblazoned with the words, "Forget the Church – Follow Jesus." The article within, penned by Andrew Sullivan, was quickly posted to such sites as the *Huffington Post* and *The Daily Beast*. At the heart of the argument is the plea to reject organized religion (i.e. the church), while at the same time accepting Jesus as one's personal savior. The implication is that one can be saved separate and apart from the church. The Bible supports no such conclusion. You cannot separate Jesus from His church. Consider the following:

(1) You cannot separate Jesus from his church because **He shed His blood to purchase it** (Acts 20:28). To contend the church is nonessential is to contend the blood of Jesus is nonessential (cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 1:7).

(2) You cannot separate Jesus from His church because **the saved are added to it** (Acts 2:47). Just as all the saved were in the ark in the days of Noah, even so today all the saved are in the church. This being true, it is foolish to contend that one can be saved apart from the church.

(3) You cannot separate Jesus from His church because **He is head of the church and Savior of the body** (Ephesians 5:23). The body is the church (Colossians 1:18). Just as the physical head is connected to the physical body, so also the spiritual head (Christ) is inextricably linked to the spiritual body (the church).

(4) You cannot separate Jesus and His church because **they are bound together**. This is clearly evidenced in the narrative of Saul of Tarsus, who was "... ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3, ESV). When Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, His first words were, "... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me" (Acts 9:4, KJV). He identified Himself to Saul by saying, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest..." (Acts 9:5, KJV). Such