

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

10 November 2013

Topics

A.M. Bible Class: Holy Spirit and Us

A.M. Lesson: Crucified With Christ

Romans 8:14 ff

P.M. Lesson: The Teacher Who Is Taught

Isaiah 50

Wednesday: Was Elijah Really as Ineffective as he Thought?

1 Kings 19:15 ff

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

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.

Self-Deception

comments on Isaiah 50:1-3

by Paul D. Hanson

Self-deception is a bitter enemy of wholesome relationships. And it is the most illusive of life's evils with which to cope. In marriage, for example, it leads one partner to assert that the fault lies exclusively with the other. An impenetrable wall is constructed that silences honest communication. Self-deception allows the one to wallow in self-pity while the other languishes in despair. A relationship does, bringing the happiness of two human beings with it.

It is no wonder that human beings jeopardize

their relationship with God through the vice of self-deception.

The comfort offered by self-deception is hard to let go. Spouses, children, nations, civilizations, and – dreadful prospect – possibly even our entire planet, find the benefits of shrugging off blame onto others more attractive than facing harsh life-giving truths. Lies have become ingrained, have become lifestyle, habit, much like gambling or substance abuse becomes habitual. Every possible defense mechanism is used to avoid the fact that the blame rests on self, and hence as well the responsibility for the situation.

Isaiah 40-66. Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1995. 136, 138.

Investing for Eternity

K.T. Sim, ourdailyjourney.org

Jesus said that those who would be His disciples must do three things: "Turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). Then He raised the bar even higher: "You must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26). Considering the hard realities of these requirements, why would anyone want to follow Him?

Thankfully, Jesus gave us the motivation for making such a radical commitment. Putting it in the first person: I turn from my selfish ways, take up my cross, and follow Christ because I am investing for eternity (Matthew 16:24-28).

It's easy to become preoccupied with life on earth. What can Jesus do for me in the here and now? Can He help me get that promotion? Will Jesus heal me of my cancer?

Jesus spoke of two paradoxes: The person living only for himself will lose his life in the end, and losing the pleasure of sin is nothing compared with

losing one's soul eternally (Matthew 16:25-26). At His return, He'll judge "all people according to their deeds" (Matthew 16:27). Jesus is asking us not to live for this life, but for the next. He invites us to invest in Him.

The apostle Paul also offers us the same investment opportunity: "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life" (Colossians 3:1-3).

To live wisely in the here and now, we must keep our focus on eternity. Only a life invested for Him will pay eternal dividends (Matthew 6:19-21).



"You realize, of course, that these imply free will?"

Help in the Philippines

Disaster assistance for victims of the recent typhoon in the Philippines can be sent to Shepherds Hill International, PO Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136. Or you may send it online to shepherdshill.org. Shepherds Hill is a non-profit organization led by Dr. Mike O'Neal as the chairman

of the board (former Oklahoma Christian University president). All disaster donations will be sent to the Philippines to help with the relief and rebuilding work there. Just note that the donation is for the disaster in the Philippines.

The strength for our conquering and our victory is drawn continually from Christ. The Bible does not teach that sin is completely eradicated from Christians in this life, but it does teach that sin shall no longer reign over you. The strength and power of sin have been broken. The Christian now has resources available to live above and beyond this world. The Bible teaches that whosoever is born of God does not practice sin. It is like the little girl who said that when the devil came knocking with a temptation, she just sent Jesus to the door.
- Billy Graham

News

Nick Self: Complications from foot surgery.

Merwin Knowlton (Ken's brother): Recovering from surgery.

Jack Hammit (Joy Gibson's nephew): Was scheduled for surgery on Friday, November 8 for bladder cancer.

Please offer prayers Halily Rice's behalf (daughter of a friend of Jonda's). She is a 2-year-old who has just been diagnosed with AML leukemia, and is in the Children's Hospital in the Phoenix area. She suddenly developed a sore throat, her throat began to swell, and is now receiving Chemo. Treatments. She is related to Danny Hoopes' family.

Prayer List:

Healing: Jerry Robinson's mother Norma. Mike and Sandy Cavazos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

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<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

