

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

1 December 2013

Topics

A.M. Bible Class: More Than Conquerors

Romans 8:28 ff

A.M. Lesson: Renewing of Your Mind

Romans 12:1-2

P.M. Lesson: Future Glory of Zion

Isaiah 54

Wednesday: Singing

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.

The Intolerance of Tolerance

Having a biblical worldview is of paramount importance to every Christian. Not surprisingly, there is also a great deal of opposition to this worldview in our society. This week, The Christian Post published an article entitled, "Top 5 Christian Leaders Targeted by Gay Activists." Some of the religious leaders so targeted include Rick Warren and Joel Osteen, neither of whom may be considered a firebrand conservative on any particular issue.

Another figure on this list, minister Louie Giglio, was invited to deliver the benediction to President

Obama's 2012 inauguration. Activists dug up a 20-year old sermon in which Giglio described homosexuality as a sin and advised the congregation to respond "lovingly but firmly" to the aggressive agenda of some of the homosexual community. Giglio was labeled as "anti-gay" and later withdrew from the program.

Those who live lifestyles contrary to teachings of God's Word may claim to be tolerant. Many times, they are anything but. For a group wanting to be known for toleration, some activists have equated Christianity with the Ku Klux Klan, Muslim extremists, and other morally reprehensible groups. But if one wants to receive tolerance, he or she should be willing to grant it.

As Christians, we believe that the gospel is for all. We want everyone to come to a saving knowledge of God's Son. We want everyone to follow those steps that lead to a right relationship with him. This also includes noting those behaviors and actions that will disrupt their relationship with God. Part of being included in the people of God is the rejection of these sinful activities.

Tolerance—as it is often promoted—is a true enemy of humanity. It teaches that every lifestyle is not only permissible, but should even be celebrated, as long as it does not take too strong a stand on anything (and certainly not on the Bible).

In reality, there is only one path to God: through his Son Jesus Christ (John 14:6). If there were only one way out of a burning building, would it not be considered foolish, if not morally objectionable, to refuse to tell others the location of the exit? Or to tell them to find their own way? Or that whatever way they chose was okay for them? In the same way, we want to tell others the way they must go in order to receive eternal life. There is no other.

Dewayne Bryant. Church of Christ. Rush Springs, OK.

Tragedies

Tragic events are facts of life. Some are created by humans, such as the Oklahoma City bombing; Sept. 11; Columbine High School; Newtown, Conn., Elementary School; and now the Boston Marathon bombing. Other catastrophic events come from acts of nature, such as earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and hurricanes. Some tragedies arise from accidents, like plane crashes, car wrecks, drowning victims, and fires.

Jesus mentioned a tragedy in Luke 13. Eighteen people were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them (v. 4). History sheds no light on this particular tragedy.

The fertilizer explosion in West, Texas, a small town about 20 miles north of Waco, Texas, is of interest to us because of the impact on some of our brethren. Donald Adair, an elder of the West Church of Christ, owns the fertilizer plant. Many houses were destroyed, including the house where Ernie and Amanda Albrecht and their four children lived. Ernie is the minister of the West Church of Christ. The family pets were killed by the blast, but the family survived because they were at Wednesday night Bible study.

Many, perhaps most, tragedies are difficult to predict and prepare for. The specifics of who when, and where are usually not predictable. "You just never know," so we must always be ready. Our entrance into eternity can come at any moment.

The biggest, saddest, most horrific tragedy of all, however, is to die lost, or to be alive but spiritually unprepared when the Lord comes in judgment. Yes, the most tragic story of all will be about "those who do not know God...Those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus." The tragedy is "they will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might" (2 Thess. 1:8-9). Live ready! Watch! You don't know when Christ will come (Matt. 25:1-13).

James Cudd. Hinton Church of Christ. Hinton, OK.

Waiting for Heaven

A recent Bible study drew attention to scripture found in the letter of Jude. These scriptures point out important actions for Christians to do.

"But you beloved, building yourselves upon your

most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life" (Jude 20, 21).

These four actions are so necessary for those in the body of Christ.

1. Build yourself up in your faith
2. Pray
3. Keep yourself in the love of God
4. Wait anxiously for eternal life

This letter of Jude is very pointed about how we need to act as Christians. The number four point shows the necessary action that encourages the unity that Christ prayed for to the Father on the church's behalf. Consider the effect of this common goal for the church.

Everyone in the body would be working toward the coming of Christ and eternal life. This would avoid the selfish actions of "what can the church do for me." Most of all the many "isms" that divide the church would begin to vanish.

Our obedience is to the word of God. Our hope for salvation depends on God. Our hope for unity is from the faith in the scriptures.

Carrol Duncan. Clarendon Church of Christ. Clarendon, TX.

News

Ben Atchley has been having a rough go with his cancer treatments. He rarely lets "feeling crummy" keep him from attending services. He doesn't complain much; but he certainly would love to feel better.

Many folks are traveling this season. Please pray that their travels are uneventful (except for the good experiences of being with loved ones).

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.

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