

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

8 December 2013

Topics

A.M. Bible Class: A Gift Left Unopened

Acts 2:38

A.M. Lesson: Our Covenant with God

Matthew 26:26-30

P.M. Lesson: A People Called Unclean

Introducing Isaiah 56-66

Wednesday: Naboth's Vineyard

1 Kings 21

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.

Define "Justified"

Neil Short

Restorationists and Evangelicals sometimes argue over whether there are any conditions for salvation. Evangelicals generally argue that there are no conditions, (except perhaps for the "faith" requirement). Restorationists agree that salvation is "by grace through faith" (Ephesians 2:8) but we are certain the New Testament writers equated faith with certain works such as baptism.

"No, no, no," says the evangelical. "Baptism is a work and works cannot be a requirement."

Romans 3:28 says, "For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by

law" (NRSV). My humble response is that baptism is not a work of the law. It is a condition of covenant. But I digress.

The usual response to the Romans passages that show Abraham was justified by faith alone is to balance the Romans doctrine with James 2:24. "You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."

Something interesting has occurred in this mock argument. We are no longer talking about salvation but now we are talking about justification. Is justification and salvation the same thing?

"Saved" as it appears in Ephesians 2:8 means "to save, i.e. deliver or protect (literally or figuratively):--heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole" (Strongs G4982).

"Justified" as it appears in Romans 3-5 and James 2 means "to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent:--free, justify(-ier), be righteous." (Strongs G1344).

Salvation has to do with rescue from disaster. Justification has to do with courtroom acquittal. By the very definition of Justification, it makes no sense to be able to earn it. Salvation, on the other hand, still requires *something* from the one needing rescue. In a mundane rescue, a man must grab the rope, jump into the boat, let go of the tree-branch, whatever! Nobody would give credit for the rescue to the guy who took hold of the lifesaver. It is still a requirement for salvation. The one doing the rescue may tell the man, "save yourself!" meaning, "grab the lifesaver." That's exactly what Peter meant in Acts 2:40.

And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

In the New Testament there are things people *must* do to be saved (repent, make confession, be

baptized). No new testament writer would call those acts meritorious of salvation but each would call them "faith" and would see them as conditions.

Salvation and justification are not quite the same. Salvation requires a Savior. Justification requires a judge and, in our case, an advocate (1 John 2:1).

Chill Out!

Psalm 46:10 simply says, "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth." Notice the comma after "be still."

It means to stop, slow down, chill out. It is pretty obvious that the majority of us have allowed our culture to draw us into living extremely busy lives to the point that it is nearly impossible to focus our attention on what is really important. Consider the following:

1. Studies have shown that when we do two tasks at the same time we take about thirty percent of our attention off the primary task.

2. Whenever two people meet in today's society, the odds say that one or the other will mention how busy they are.

3. In 1950 we had on average ten activities to choose from, while today that number is over a thousand. Things become even more complicated because most of these activities are either fun or worthy of our time.

4. The culture has convinced us that activity is all that counts and anything else is nothing more than laziness.

5. God created both activity and rest. In fact, He commends both of them. So, to live within the bounds of His will requires a balance of both.

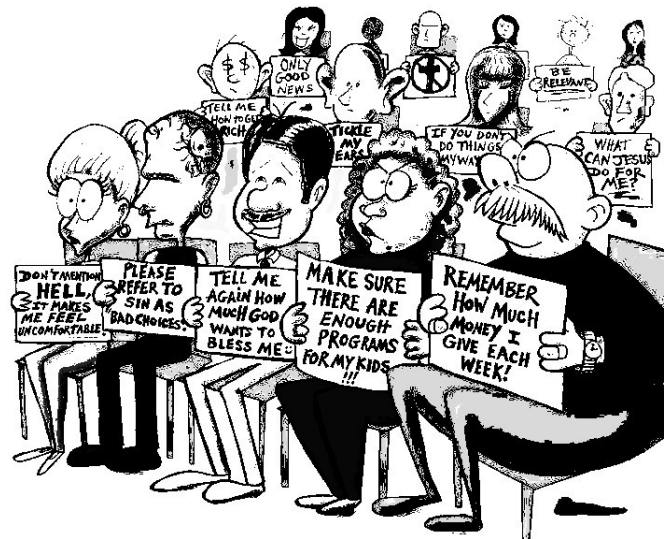
The Bedouin shepherd lives in shabby box tents that dot the hillsides throughout Israel. When compared to our lives saturated with modern conveniences it seems as though they live a very difficult life. However, an interesting fact is that their average life span is more than 100 years. While their diets are made up of natural foods which contain no preservatives, that is not the secret to their longevity.

The secret lies in their relatively stress free lives. Stress makes us sick, drives us crazy, and kills us

some three decades before the majority of these shepherds.

The Bedouins rise from their tents slightly before sunrise and go about the work of their days. As the sun begins to set they gather as families in their tents for dinner. Then they will sit around sharing stories and singing. Each evening involves three to four hours of family time. Their work is very physical and tiring but their lives are relatively free from the noise of life. They routinely go to bed at the same time every night and enjoy deep restful and renewing sleep. As the Bedouins lie down all is quiet as they stare up at the clear star-filled sky. Their minds are able to focus on the majesty of God and that is the last thought on their minds as they fall asleep.

Tim Woodward
Smithville Church of Christ
Smithville, TN



News

Potluck NEXT Sunday.

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.

Back issues are posted at
<http://saaffordchurchofchrist.org>

