

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

22 December 2013

Topics

A.M. Bible Class: The World Hated His Disciples (John 15:18ff)

A.M. Lesson: An Event Worth Remembering (Luke 2:1-7)!

P.M. Lesson: Accusation against the wicked (Isaiah 56:9ff)

Wednesday: Baal Worship (special study)

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

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.

Christian Camouflage?

I do not know if it is because a certain television show has grown in popularity, or if it is just the latest new clothing fad, but I have noticed many teenagers dressing in camouflage lately. Before it was a clothing trend, camouflage was functional clothing. Camouflage is designed so the person wearing it blends in with the environment around them. The whole point is to remain undetected.

Some Christians try to live camouflaged lives so they blend in with the world around them. They do the best they can not to be noticed as a Christian in a world that is not always kind to Christians. They even dress and talk like the world. Some will do whatever it takes to not be noticed.

Jesus warned that just as he was not accepted by

the world, his followers would not be accepted either. It can be difficult to live as a Christian in this world, but that does not mean we give up what is important in order to blend in. In Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus says: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

We are not called to blend into the darkness, but to be light to world. We may need to give up something to ensure our light may shine brighter. We need to make certain we are not blending, but instead shining the light.

So although wearing camouflage clothing might make you "happy, happy, happy," we need to ensure we are not camouflaging our lives to blend in with the world. Stand out.

Luke Bower, Baker Heights Church of Christ, Abilene, TX

"I've Got Something More Important to Do"

In John 4:7, the Bible says that a woman of Samaria came to draw water. She met Jesus at the well and He taught her in such an incredible way that John 4:28 says, "The woman then left her water pot" in her excitement to tell her neighbors about Jesus. In John 4:8, Jesus sent His disciples into the city to buy food. When they return with it in John 4:31 and urge Him to eat, Jesus seems to have lost interest in physical food in favor of another kind of food, His father's will and work (John 4:34). In both cases, the physical interest was eclipsed by the spiritual need.

How unlike the woman and Jesus we can be sometimes! A workday, service project, gospel

meeting, fellowship activity, or involvement meeting is announced, but we rarely if ever participate. Instead, we have prioritized earthly things over these. We let our children miss church services for their sports, homework, job, or other activities, choosing or allowing them to choose the earthly over the spiritual. Do we ever abandon Jesus for the water pot, the food, or some 21st century equivalent?

I am convicted that I have often chosen the earthly over the spiritual when I worry about this world and its distractions, when I neglect prayer and Bible study, when money and material things become too important to me, and when I am not actively seeking ways to serve Christ or save souls. An occasional shortcoming that does not characterize me is one thing, but I do not want to become like those bread-chasers in John 6. I do not want to resort to Christ when all else is falling apart in my life. I want to make Him the priority of my life, letting Him fix what is broken in me and use me as a tool in His hand. I want to see Christ's will as most important and say instinctively, "I've got something more important to do than 'work for the food that perishes'" (John 6:27). What about you?

Neal Pollard , via S. Green St. Church of Christ , Glasgow, KY

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

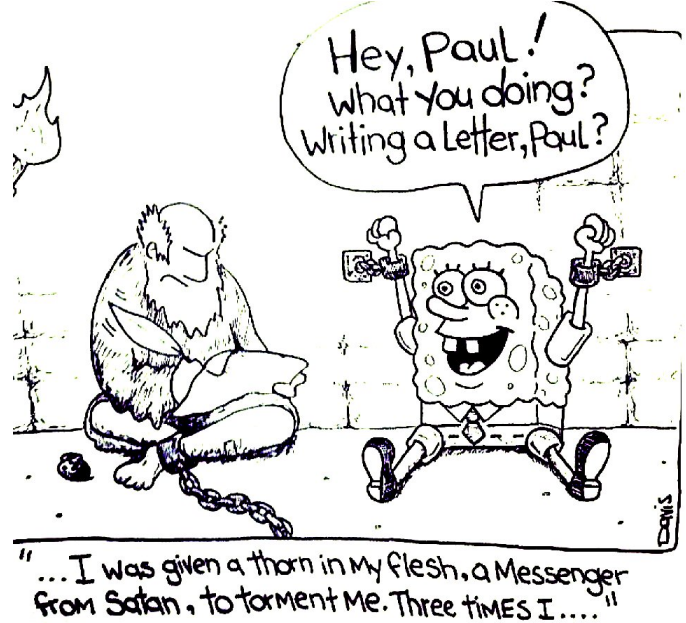
This letter of Jude is very pointed about how we need to act as Christians. The number four point shows the necessary action that encourages the unity that Christ prayed for to the Father on the church's behalf. Consider the effect of this common

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

Lots of people are traveling, including many who came to Safford to be with family in the aftermath of Ben Atchley's passing.

Tatyana Knowlton is recovering from foot surgery.

Prayer List:

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

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

