

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

26 January 2014

Topics

A.M. Bible Class: Jesus Prayer, continued
(John 17:24 ff)

A.M. Lesson: Paul's View of Groups
(2 Thes 1:1-12)?

P.M. Lesson: Jerusalem Redeemed
(Isaiah 62)

Wednesday: Elisha takes up Elijah's
Mantle (2 Kings 2)

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.

Being One

John 17:20-23

Lawrence O. Richards

I learned a new word the other day playing a game called Balderdash. The word was "Martext." It describes a preacher with poor delivery and fuzzy thought processes. When you think about it, it's easy to see where the word came from. Such a preacher would *mar* any *text* he preached from!

I suspect John 17:22 has been marred by preachers as much as any text in the Bible. It records Jesus' prayer that all believers "may be one as We are One." Many preachers have taken this text as a call for Christian unity. I have no statistics on how often this text has been used when denominational groups meet to consider merger, but I'd bet it's served as a proof text about 99.9 percent of such times.

The only problem is, Jesus wasn't praying for Christians to be one with each other. He wasn't asking for organizational or even experiential unity in the body of Christ. What Jesus asked is that all believers be one with Him!

We know this from the passage itself. Jesus' relationship with the Father is the model of the oneness Christ prayed for. Jesus' is in the Father, and the Father in Him (v. 21). They are bound together: by shared nature, by mutual love, by oneness of purpose, by single, harmonious will. Jesus lived His life on earth in union with God the Father, and His actions here revealed God to us all.

And now, wonder of wonders, Jesus asked that we may have the kind of relationship with Him that He has had with the Father! Jesus asked that we might be bound to Him: given a new nature that is like His, a capacity to love that reflects His own, a place in God's plan and purpose, and knowledge of God's will.

Equipped with these gifts, found in Him in the same way He is in the Father, you and I like Jesus can display God's glory to the world. We can be channels through which God reveals Himself to other men.

What's wonderful is that this prayer has been answered. We are one with Jesus, our lives bound up in His. Christ's desire for us, now that we are one, is that we might "be brought to complete unity" experientially, that through us "the world [may] know" that Jesus is the Father's Son.

Being one with Christ means you and I can live our lives on earth in union with God.

Devotional Commentary. 805.

News

Dave Morse is home.

Prayer List:

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

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



FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Singing Night	6	7	8 Sara Atchley Birthday
9	10	11 Tatyana Knowlton Birthday	12 Lincoln's B-Day	13	14 Valentines Day	15
16 Potluck	17 Presidents' Day	18	19	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday
23 Men's Day (Ukraine) Billy Martin Birthday	24	25	26	27	28	