

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

## 23 February 2014

### Topics

A.M. Bible Class: Jesus Before Pilate  
(John 19:1ff)

A.M. Lesson: Join the Church of Your  
Choice? (Matthew 7:13-14)

P.M. Lesson: Uncontrolled Anger  
(Ephesians 4:26-27)

Wednesday: God Blesses a Military Leader  
of Israel's Enemy (2 Kings 5)

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.

## Jesus and Election

February 17, 2014 by Christopher Fisher

*1Pe 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 1Pe 1:2 Elect [eklektos] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

In 1 Peter 2, Peter writes that people were "chosen" or "elect" according to the foreknowledge of God the Father. In the Augustinian mindset, this is some sort of predetermination of people, almost like a guest-list of people that will be saved. But this is not at all how Jesus uses the word "elect".

Two times in Matthew, Jesus states "For many are called, but few are chosen." Context is key to understanding this phrase. In both contexts, Jesus illustrates with a parable. In no context does the events indicate the Augustinian interpretation of election.

In Matthew 22 is found the parable of the wedding feast. It is a very odd story:

*Mat 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,*

*Mat 22:3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.*

*Mat 22:4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."'*

*Mat 22:5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.*

*Mat 22:6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.*

*Mat 22:7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.*

A rich man is hosting a wedding for his son and invites all the guests. The feast is prepared and waiting for the guests. All the guests had to do was show up. The invitation is made on several occasions. Eventually some individuals even kill the messengers; the king extracts swift vengeance on the murderers.

*Mat 22:8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.*

*Mat 22:9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'*

*Mat 22:10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

The banquet is prepared, but has been refused by the

normal guests. The king has to change his plan and then outreach to the masses in order to fill his banquet table. He invites anyone and everyone. But some who came to the wedding, were not suitably dressed:

*Mat 22:11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.*

*Mat 22:12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.*

*Mat 22:13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

The "rich" man, who could afford to dress nicely but declined, that is the one who was thrown out of the banquet. It is in this context that Jesus states:

*Mat 22:14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."*  
[eklektos]

This is not at all what the Calvinists think of when they talk about election.

The parable mirrors Jesus' gospel of the Kingdom. God reached out to convince mainstream Israel to be saved, but they declined. God reached out to them time and time again. But they responded with rejection and murder of God's prophets. God then responds by broadening His invitations for salvation, reaching out to all classes of society (Jesus' primary ministry was to the sinners). Some of these people respond, but not all of them in an acceptable fashion. God casts those individuals out. The remaining are "elect". Election is not a guest-list filled with approved names. The idea is the exact opposite. Election is about individuals choosing God.

<http://realityisnotoptional.com/2014/02/17/jesus-and-election/>

## News

The Duncan church will have a guest speaker on Sunday, March 9 at 11 A.M. The speaker is Ken Leonard. He is Associate Director Of Development at

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort Inc. in Nashville, TN.

February Elder Appreciation Dinner: postponed.

March 1 work party: postponed.

## Prayer List:

*Healing: Della Phillips, H.L. Boling, 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>



## MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Singing Night	4	5	6	7 Esther Atchley's birthday	8 International Women's Day
9 John Cunningham's birthday Special lesson @ Duncan c of C 11 A.M.	10 International Women's Day observed	11	12	13	14	15
16 Potluck	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Vernal equinox	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Neil and Gloria Short - anniversary	31	February 2014 S M T W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28		April 2014 S M T W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		Calendars by Vertex42.com © 2013 Vertex42 LLC. Free to print.
		2014 Calendar		2015 Calendar		