

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

14 September 2014

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

One Body, many parts (1 Corinthians 12:12-30)

A.M. Lesson:

The Kingdom of God (Daniel 2:44)

P.M. Lesson:

Wise as serpents and harmless as doves
(Matthew 10:16)

Wednesday:

The Book of the Law is found (2 Kings 22)

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.

God's work

Lawrence O. Richards

The giant image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream represented his own and succeeding Mesopotamian empires. These are the same empires seen in later visions of Daniel. Each of the empires is destined to be succeeded, until all are ultimately crushed and supplanted. In the end, "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people."

Daniel had demonstrated the ability that Nebuchadnezzar had required. There was proof of

contact with the supernatural. Here was evidence that there is a God in heaven. As a result Nebuchadnezzar promoted Daniel and gave his three Hebrew friends important posts. Most important, the experience was the beginning of what we might consider the conversion of Nebuchadnezzar himself.

God is at work even now in the most unlikely of unbelievers. The pagan king, author of a recovered poem expressing both his own arrogance and gratitude to his god for his advancement, had been given a dream by God. This had launched a course of events that impressed him with Daniel and with Daniel's God. Who knows what God may even now be doing within the heart of some "unlikely" person in your life?

Devotional Commentary (Victor).

Response to ministry will be largely negative, but some will respond positively

Matthew Henry

Our Lord warned his disciples to prepare for persecution. They were to avoid all things which gave advantage to their enemies, all meddling with worldly or political concerns, all appearance of evil or selfishness, and all underhand measures. Christ foretold troubles, not only that the troubles might not be a surprise, but that they might confirm their faith. He tells them what they should suffer, and from whom. Thus Christ has dealt fairly and faithfully with us, in telling us the worst we can

meet with in his service; and he would have us deal so with ourselves, in sitting down and counting the cost. Persecutors are worse than beasts, in that they prey upon those of their own kind. The strongest bonds of love and duty, have often been broken through from enmity against Christ. Sufferings from friends and relations are very grievous; nothing cuts more. It appears plainly, that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution; and we must expect to enter into the kingdom of God through many tribulations. With these predictions of trouble, are counsels and comforts for a time of trial. The disciples of Christ are hated and persecuted as serpents, and their ruin is sought, and they need the serpent's wisdom. Be ye harmless as doves. Not only, do nobody any hurt, but bear nobody any ill-will. Prudent care there must be, but not an anxious, perplexing thought; let this care be cast upon God. The disciples of Christ must think more how to do well, than how to speak well. In case of great peril, the disciples of Christ may go out of the way of danger, though they must not go out of the way of duty. No sinful, unlawful means may be used to escape; for then it is not a door of God's opening. The fear of man brings a snare, a perplexing snare, that disturbs our peace; an entangling snare, by which we are drawn into sin; and, therefore, it must be striven and prayed against. Tribulation, distress, and persecution cannot take away God's love to them, or theirs to him. Fear Him, who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. They must deliver their message publicly, for all are deeply concerned in the doctrine of the gospel. The whole counsel of God must be made known, (Acts 20:27) . Christ shows them why they should be of good cheer. Their sufferings witnessed against those who oppose his gospel. When God calls us to speak for him, we may depend on him to teach us what to say. A believing prospect of the end of our troubles, will be of great use to support us under them. They may be borne to the end, because the sufferers shall be borne up under them. The strength shall be according to the day. And it is great encouragement to those who are doing Christ's work, that it is a work which shall certainly be done. See how the care of Providence extends to all creatures, even to the sparrows. This should silence all the fears of God's people; Ye are of

more value than many sparrows. And the very hairs of your head are all numbered. This denotes the account God takes and keeps of his people. It is our duty, not only to believe in Christ, but to profess that faith, in suffering for him, when we are called to it, as well as in serving him. That denial of Christ only is here meant which is persisted in, and that confession only can have the blessed recompence here promised, which is the real and constant language of faith and love. Religion is worth every thing; all who believe the truth of it, will come up to the price, and make every thing else yield to it. Christ will lead us through sufferings, to glory with him. Those are best prepared for the life to come, that sit most loose to this present life. Though the kindness done to Christ's disciples be ever so small, yet if there be occasion for it, and ability to do no more, it shall be accepted. Christ does not say that they deserve a reward; for we cannot merit any thing from the hand of God; but they shall receive a reward from the free gift of God. Let us boldly confess Christ, and show love to him in all things.

News

Esther and Sara Atchley are in Lubbock.

Gloria Short will be traveling for the next few weeks.

Tatyana Knowlton is anticipated to be back in Arizona today.

Barbara Eisenberg is in home hospice care.

Please remember in prayer Barbara, her husband Bill and their loved ones Robin, Tamara and Carri.

John and Sharon Cunningham are traveling.

Fellowship meal is next Sunday (September 21).

Prayer List:

*Bill and Barbara Eisenberg, H.L.
Boling, Mike and Sandy Cavasos,
Nic and Ani Self.*

