

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

## 28 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:

Spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

#### A.M. Lesson:

Faith is the victory (1 John 5:4-5)

#### P.M. Lesson:

The coming of our Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:13f)

#### Wednesday:

Singing

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.

## Calvinist turns Arminian

Keith Coward, excerpt

The third thing that set me on the course to reject RT [Reformed Theology] was the thing that had led me into it – Scripture itself. As a pastor I preached through books of the Bible verse by verse. Occasionally I would encounter a common Calvinistic proof text and realize that it did not necessarily say what I had thought it said. John 3 does not necessarily teach that regeneration precedes faith; John 10 does not necessarily teach that Jesus died only for the elect; Eph 1 does not necessarily teach that God ordained whatever happens; 1 Pet 1 does

not necessarily teach that God elected individuals for salvation – unconditionally, effectually, exclusively. Once again, these discoveries did not shake my confidence in RT. There were too many passages that clearly taught it; I considered Romans 9 impregnable to Arminian assault. But I realized that the quantity of verses used to support my view did not matter if, upon closer scrutiny, they could not bear the weight that we Calvinists were putting on them on a case-by-case basis.

I remained a committed Calvinist by choice and wanted to silence the issues that were bothering me, so on vacation in October 2012 I decided to shore up my confidence by reading some Reformed writers. But my plan backfired: I began with a small booklet about election; the author opened by stating his case from Eph 1:4 – a verse that I had studied when teaching through Ephesians the previous year. I had been struck by the parallels between Deut 4:37; 7:6-11 and this text: In the former, God says that he chose the Israelites to be his holy people because he loved them for the sake of their fathers; in the latter, Paul says that God chose “us” to be holy in Christ, which may easily mean “for the sake of Christ”. Election was a corporate, vocational, conditional concept for Israel; perhaps it was the same thing for Christians (see 1 Pet 2:9-10). Whatever the case, I knew that there was a lot of room to interpret Eph 1:4 differently than this author did. He was building his case for election on a verse that I knew could not bear that weight, and I began to wonder what would happen to other classic proof texts if examined more carefully, without Calvinistic presuppositions.

I decided to spend my vacation differently: Instead of trying to bolster my confidence in RT I began to work my way through several texts ostensibly supporting the Calvinistic concept of unconditional election. I asked, “Is there another

way to understand these passages?" To my surprise and chagrin, I found that there were not only alternative interpretations, but that they actually made better sense of the texts' contexts.

That was a turning point in my life. For the first time I said, "Whatever it cost me (and I knew it could cost me everything), I want to know the truth." I spent the next year and a half going back through Scripture, reading books on both sides of the issue, listening to debates and lectures, praying fervently, studying passages, and meditating deeply. Gradually, my questions about RT turned into doubts, and by the end of 2013 I realized that my doubts had turned into disbelief. I had not fully reconstructed my theology, but it was clear that I no longer found Calvinism coherent, much less biblical.

quoted from:  
<http://arminianperspectives.wordpress.com/x-calvinist-corner/#comment-13344>  
 Posted July 21, 2014

# Christians

## persecuted today



Jonah survived three days in the belly of a giant fish, but it took far less time for the reluctant

prophet's revered tomb to turn to dust after militants rigged it with explosives. The destruction symbolized the seizure of Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The group ordered the city's Christians to convert, pay a protection fee, leave—or be killed. Almost all chose to flee the Nineveh plains, long Iraq's Christian heartland and intended by its government as a future Christian province. Meanwhile, the Arabic letter 'N' used by ISIS to mark Christian homes became a worldwide symbol of solidarity.

Christianity Today. September 2014.

## News

Joy Gibson is having surgery on September 30. Barbara Eisenberg is in home hospice care.

Please remember in prayer Barbara, her husband Bill and family Robin, Tamara and Carri Richards.

Bill and Barbara Eisenberg have a son, Andrew, who is being treated for glaucoma.

Brian and Billie Martin are traveling. They may or may not be back by now.

## OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Singing Night Norma Robinson birthday	2	3	4 Yom Kippur
5 Teacher's Day (Ukraine)	6 Eric Kramer birthday	7	8 Total Lunar eclipse beginning tomorrow morning at 1:17. Total at 3:55	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14	15	16	17	18 Stacy Kramer birthday
19 Fellowship Meal	20	21	22	23 Randomness and Dallas, TX	24 United Nations Day Foreknowledge randomforeknowledge.com	25 Conference
26	27	28	29 Mike Cavasos birthday	30	31 Halloween	

## Prayer List:

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

