

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

**12 October 2014**

## Topics

### A.M. Bible Class:

Heresy in Asia

### A.M. Lesson:

Guest Speaker: Scott Richards

### P.M. Lesson:

Guest Speaker: Scott Richards

### Wednesday:

Introduction to the book of Romans

### 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. |

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

## The good life

On the occasion of billionaire Ted Turner's 75th birthday last year, a CNN profile opened with these poignant words: "What will matter most about Ted Turner's life story when they roll the final credits? That he started the first 24-hour news network? Built a fortune once worth \$10 billion? Was Time magazine's Man of the Year? Received a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame? Made The New York Times best-seller list? Maybe it was that time he raced a sailboat faster than anyone else. Or the year his baseball team won the World Series. Impressed yet?"

The profile gave a fascinating account of a man reckoning with his life. Now, though he has tasted much success, Turner is concerned with the legacy he will leave, and he's returning to basic questions about the reality of God.

James, near the end of his letter, speaks to those who must deal with the reckoning we'll all face—where the quality of our lives will be tested (James 5:1-12). For those of us who receive our value from how much wealth we gather and how much influence we exert, there is much peril. "Your gold and silver have become worthless," James says. "The

very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire" (James 5:3). Lives built on selfishness can't endure.

But to those of us who place our value in God's mercy, there's great hope and promise. "Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. . . . You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near" (James 5:7-8).

It's not inherently evil or good to possess great wealth. The crux of our life is whether or not we know that our life comes from God and that we depend on Him alone. God gives us life now, and He will return to bring our earthly lives to a good end. <http://www.ourdailyjourney.org/2014/10/11/the-good-life/>

## Christ in you

Lawrence O. Richards  
on Colossians 1:15-28

The French have a phrase, *Le Bon Dieu*. It means "the good God," and is used almost with fond contempt. It suggests a grandfatherly figure in his dotage, vaguely but fondly nodding when visited briefly by one of his many offspring. *Le Bon Dieu* may not be pleased at everything one does, but if he

should notice, he's much too mild to take any action. A person can feel comfortable with *Le Bon Dieu*—and safely ignore him.

What a different image of the invisible God from that portrayed in Christ! Here in Colossians we meet a dominant God, Master of Creation, who boldly stepped into the physical universe. He took on a body to deal with those sins that seem trivial to those who worship *Le Bon Dieu*. He endured the cross with fierce dedication. He triumphed in a resurrection that lifted Him above power. Looking at Christ we find no *Le Bon Dieu* who is dead, but the all-powerful Ruler of heaven and earth.

For the patrons of *Le Bon Dieu*, the real Christ is a disquieting figure. For the Christian, however, Christ preeminent, Christ incarnate, is recognized with a surge of hope and excitement. For Paul tells us that this Christ who brought God to earth is "in you!"

The Incarnation meant that God expressed his supreme power in this world—through us!

Because this Christ is in us, we do have hope for glorious things ahead. We will triumph today, and tomorrow will join Christ in Glory!

#### **Quotable**

"Jesus is not to us as Christmas is to the world, here today and gone tomorrow."—Rick Mylander  
*Devotional Commentary*. Cook.

## Live to Christ

Matthew Henry  
on Colossians 1:15-23

Christ in his human nature, is the visible discovery of the invisible God, and he that hath seen Him hath seen the father. Let us adore these mysteries in humble faith, and behold the glory of the Lord in Christ Jesus. He was born or begotten before all the creation, before any creature was made.... All things being created by Him, were created for him; being made by his power, they were made according to his pleasure, and for his praise and glory. He not only created them all at first, but it is by the word of his power that they are upheld. Christ as Mediator is the Head of the body, the church; all grace and strength are from him; and the

church is his body. All fullness dwells in him; a fullness of merit and righteousness, of strength and grace for us. God showed his justice in requiring full satisfaction. This mode of redeeming mankind by the death of Christ was most suitable. Here is presented to our view the method of being reconciled. And that, notwithstanding the hatred of sin on God's part, it pleased God to reconcile fallen man to himself. If convinced that we were enemies in our minds by wicked works, and that we are now reconciled to God by the sacrifice and death of Christ in our nature, we shall not attempt to explain away, nor yet think fully to comprehend these mysteries; but we shall see the glory of this plan of redemption, and rejoice in the hope set before us. If this be so, that God's love is so great to us, what shall we do now for God? Be frequent in prayer, and abound in holy duties; and live no more to yourselves, but to Christ. Christ died for us. But wherefore? That we should still live in sin? No; but that we should die to sin, and live henceforth not to ourselves, but to Him.

### **News**

The Fall Thing social at the Cunninghams is scheduled for October 24 in the evening (around 6 P.M.).

Joy Gibson is recovering from surgery.

Pete Waller is recovering from an injury to his thumb.

Dakota Short broke her arm while playing soccer. She will undergo treatment in the next several weeks.

Please remember in prayer Barbara Eisenberg's family: her husband Bill and sons Robin and Scott Richards, Robin's wife Tamara and daughter Carri.

Betty Acosta, from Morenci, is recovering from pneumonia.

Janet (Cal's wife) is in rest home.

### **Prayer List:**

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

