

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

9 November 2014

## Topics

### A.M. Bible Class:

Worship in silence (Psalm 46:10)

### A.M. Lesson:

The presence of God (1 Kings 19:1-18)

### P.M. Lesson:

The gift has been offered  
(Romans 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-10)

### Wednesday:

Romans 1:18-32

### 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*

## What are you wearing? A Communion meditation

Jack Cottrell

*Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be'; this was to fulfill the Scripture: 'They divided My outer garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.' Therefore the soldiers did these things (John 19:23-25a, NASB).*

This makes me wonder what happened to the tunic (the inner layer of clothing). One of these Roman soldiers walked away with it. Did he actually wear it? Did he later become a Christian, and realize he was wearing the very garment formerly worn by his Savior?

This is pure speculation, of course. But a man named Lloyd C. Douglas wrote a famous novel based on similar speculation. It was called *The Robe*, and it was made into a movie in 1953. Richard Burton played the soldier who won the robe (as they called it). In the story, no one seemed to wear this garment; but it was revered as possibly having miraculous powers.

What really happened to the actual tunic or robe of Jesus does not really matter. But here's another robe that DOES matter, as described by Isaiah the prophet: "I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness" (Isa. 61:10a). Here Isaiah tells us about a *Robe of Righteousness*. He describes it as something God has given him. He says that God has wrapped him in it, and this is a source of great joy to him!

What is this Robe of Righteousness? It is a metaphor for the blood Jesus shed for all mankind on the cross. The picture is this: Jesus on the cross had been literally stripped of his own robe; but metaphorically, what he was doing there was weaving a *new robe* out of his own agony and suffering, out of his very blood. He was making such a robe for every human being who wants one!

Who has a "Robe of Righteousness" today? YOU DO, if you are a Christian! Every one who takes Jesus as Savior and Lord receives this robe in Christian baptism. If you are a faithful Christian, you are wearing this robe right now—and have been since your baptism.

But here is a significant difference between the tunic stolen from Jesus and the Robe of Righteousness given to us by God: Jesus' tunic was an inner garment, usually hidden from view, while our Robe of Righteousness is an outer garment, made to cover up anything else we might be wearing. In fact, Jesus made this Robe for you for the very purpose of covering up the filthy garments of your

own deeds, and thus to make you acceptable to God. As Isaiah 64:6 reminds us, "All our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment"! (Note: even our *righteous* deeds are filthy rags, much less our sins!)

Nevertheless, you ARE accepted by God—not because of YOUR righteous living, which is not good enough, but because of the righteous deeds of Jesus Christ! All of our works, both good and bad, are covered by the righteousness of Christ!

As you partake of the loaf and cup today, do you think anybody cares what you are wearing? Probably no one else seated around you cares, but GOD cares! He cares not about your physical clothes, but about this spiritual garment woven by Jesus as he was dying on the cross. This Robe is what he is looking for; and if you are a Christian, you are wearing it this very moment! As you drink the cup of juice today, think: "This cup represents the blood of Jesus, and the blood of Jesus is the Robe of Righteousness given to me to cover my sins and hide them from God's sight! Indeed, I will rejoice greatly in the Lord! Thank you, Lord!"

A hymn writer said it this way: "When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found! Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!"

<http://jackcottrell.com>, October 10, 2014

## Sodom and homosexuality

M. W. Bassford

*Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."--Genesis 19:4-5*

There are few Biblical issues that have the same capacity for creating debate and hostility as the issue of homosexuality. On the one hand, we are currently nearing the end of a multi-decade effort by several powerful elements of American society to see homosexuality normalized and accepted. On the other hand, we see elements of the so-called "religious right" who have reacted to this environment of tolerance for homosexuality by depicting it as even worse than other sins and indeed making it a focus of their preaching and their existence generally.

When we are dealing with a subject that is so emotionally charged, it is all the more important for us to return to the word of God, see what it has to say about

homosexuality, and refine our attitudes accordingly. First, we must acknowledge that God does not put homosexuality on a different level than He puts murder, adultery, or, for that matter, lying. All sin brings forth death, and no sinner is worse off than any other. Our adherence to Scripture does not allow us to condone homosexuality, but neither does it give us license to speak or behave toward homosexuals in a hateful or contemptuous way. As disciples of Jesus, it is always our responsibility to treat every sinner we encounter with kindness, respect, and love.

However, our love for the sinner should not blind us to the evil of his sin. From the time of Sodom forward, the Bible never speaks well of homosexual practices. In recent years, all the Biblical passages dealing with homosexuality have faced a great deal of "reinterpreteation" that has much more to do with the reinterpreters' endorsement of it than what the passage actually says. For instance, the modern line about the men of Sodom is that their sin was not homosexuality, but rather their failure to extend hospitality to the angels as they should.

Of course, that's not the Bible's line. Jude 1:7 tells us that the men of Sodom were wrong in "having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh". They were certainly inhospitable, but that wasn't their only or even their biggest problem. The truth is plain: God expects man to avoid unnatural sexual practices, and those who disobey will be punished. It's not our responsibility to carry out this punishment. That's God's role. However, we are responsible for telling the truth about God's will, and the truth is that the unrepentant homosexual will never be pleasing in His sight.

<http://hisexcellentword.blogspot.com>, November 6, 2014

## News

Michelle Barela, friend of Jessica Cavasos and Nikki Lamers (Kevin and Becky Cavasos' daughter) and her son were in a bad car accident. Both are being treated for injuries.

Tatyana Knowlton is being treated for Macular Degeneration.

Potluck is next Sunday, November 16.

## Prayer List:

Joy Gibson, Janet Radar, H.L. Boling, Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Nic and Ani Self.

