

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

1 February 2015

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Tabernacle centered worship (Hebrews 9:1-10)

A.M. Lesson:

The grace of God (Psalm 103:8-14)

P.M. Lesson:

God will provide comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-11)

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.

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

SIN IS UNNATURAL AND AVOIDABLE!

Jesse Morrell, posted on Facebook
(cleaned up a little by Neil Short, ed)

Most preachers will tell you that sin is "natural" and you cannot help it. I teach the exact opposite. Sin is very much unnatural and very much avoidable.

First, the Bible says that God never allows temptation to exceed your ability so that you are able to bear it and there is a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Second, God did not design or intend mankind to commit sin (Genesis 6:5-6) so nothing could be more unnatural than for us to engage in it.

Consider the sin of ABORTION. What an unnatural horrific sin it is! Is it not natural for a mother to love and cherish her child? When I am in public with my children, people (mostly women) compliment me for having wonderful beautiful children. There is something in the nature of a woman to have affection for babies. But the Bible

says that in the last days, people will be "without NATURAL affection" (2 Tim. 3:3) The word used in the Greek New Testament is "ἄσποργος" and it means to be without natural affection for your own children or "inhuman." How horribly unnatural it is for a mother to murder her own child! How twisted! How perverted! How inhuman it is!

And so it is that sin is very much unnatural! It is inhuman! And it is absolutely avoidable. And for these reasons, sinners are justifiably punishable by God and without excuse in His Holy Courtroom. And if more preachers would preach these truths, the eyes of unbelievers might be opened to see their own wretched state, come under the conviction of sin, and cry out to God for mercy through Jesus Christ.

**I can do
all things
in him who
strengthens
me.**

Philippians 4:13, RSV.

Free from the code

James D. G. Dunn

Romans 7:5-6

While we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit (RSV).

With verses 5-6, Paul leaves behind the somewhat confusing analogy of verses 1-4 and speaks more plainly. And he does so in a way which sums up both the human plight in relation to sin, death and the law (v. 5), and the freedom from the law which the new life in Christ entails (v. 6). In fact, verses 5-6 serve as a sort of headline for the rest of chapter 7 (v. 5) and for the main thrust of chapter 8 (v. 6).

Verse 5 is one of the clearest statements of how Paul envisages the power of sin exercising its death-achieving grasp on humankind. The *flesh* indicates the scope of human weakness—the weakness of the physical, vulnerable to sickness and decay; the weakness of the human being dependent on the satisfaction of all-too-human appetites. The problem is that *sin* is the power which transforms desire into lust and thus secures and maintains its hold on the human condition—the grip of an insatiable appetite, of a habit out of control. In the attraction of the forbidden (7:7-11). The end product is *death* (cf. 5:20; 6:23). As the end product of sin, death obviously denotes destruction, the end of that process of physical and moral decay, the end result of a life given over to undisciplined habit.

It is from this condition that the death of Christ, and the Christian's identification with Christ in his death, have delivered the believer. They have been freed from that vicious cycle of sin feeding on the weakness of the flesh to produce death. That vicious cycle has been replaced by the virtuous cycle of Spirit and life (v. 6).

Here (v. 6) Paul puts it in terms of freedom from the law, since it is the way sin uses the law to stir up 'the sinful passions' which Paul has so much in the

forefront of his mind. But verse 6b makes it clear that he has in mind the law in its character as the 'old [written code]'; that is, the slavery from which the believer has been delivered. And by the '[code]', Paul has in mind (cf. 2:29) the law in its visible and literal expression. It is freedom from the rules which counted for so much among his fellow Jews that Paul is thinking of here. The contrast is, again, not freedom from servitude (cf. 6:16-23), but freedom for a different service, the new life of the Spirit. To elaborate that claim will be the climax of his exposition, in chapter 8. For the time being, it is the continuing role of the law which he will go on to explain further.

Daily Bible Commentary. Hendrickson.

News:

Please pray that on Wed., Feb. 4, the audiologist at the UA Speech & Hearing Ctr. will know of something that will improve **Norma Robinson's** hearing. Her permanent tubes in her ears prevent some treatments and aides. Norma & Jeannie will be traveling to Tucson that day.

Continue your prayers for **Jimmy Johnson**. He is still on a soup and clear drink diet. He is getting real tired of it. Some pain, some boredom, some wishing he could feel better. May have to wait for the biopsy reports before he gets some relief. He is very eager to feel better!

Esther Atchley will be in town this coming weekend.

Prayer List:

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

