

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

15 March 2015

## Topics

### A.M. Bible Class:

Personal prayer (Mark 1:35-39)

### A.M. Lesson:

Alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10)

### P.M. Lesson:

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)

### Wednesday:

What happened to Israel's birthright (Romans 9)?

### 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	11:00 A.M.

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

## Grace and faith

Marcus Maxwell

### Ephesians 2:8-10

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them (Holman Christian Standard Bible).

It is God's grace that has brought salvation. That grace has been received by faith. Being put right with God has two components. The first is God's gracious act of love and forgiveness which takes physical form in the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ. God, true to the biblical pattern, acts first and asks questions afterwards. That is, he carries out his saving work and then asks that it be received. The biblical writers seem all to agree that God's work demands a response. He does not save against our will. Salvation has to be appropriated; the gift must be received and unwrapped before it can be of any use.

Ephesians offers little support to those who wish to claim that all are saved whether they respond or not. The reason is once again the biblical stress on relationships. Salvation is not a matter of juggling

laws and punishments, though the language of law and judgment is common. At root, it is about entering freely into a relationship of love and trust with god. Hence the message is one not of mere cancellation of debts, but of reconciliation, the bringing together in peace and harmony of two parties who once were at enmity (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

At the same time, Ephesians (and the Bible as a whole) offers no encouragement to those who wish to stand in judgment over others and declare who is or is not saved. The most that is said here is that those who have received the gospel in faith know of their standing with god, are part of Christ's resurrection life, share in his rule, and will one day stand in the presence of god. That should be enough to be going on with. We are not encouraged to speculate about other ways in which grace may be received and faith exercised.

In its own way, the gospel of God's grace is a great challenge to sinful human nature. The essence of sin is the failure to recognize God, and to do things one's own way. It requires a certain humility to accept that the path to heaven is not our reward but a free gift, and the perennial heresy that the church faces is the teaching that salvation is a reward for good works.

That was as true in the first century as the 21<sup>st</sup>, and the writer drives the point home twice in two verses. It is not your doing, it is not the result of

works, so no one has anything to boast about. "Works" in Paul refers to obedience to the Jewish Law. Here it should be given the widest possible meaning: it refers to anything that human beings may do to justify themselves to God, or to convince themselves that God is more or less obliged to respond favorably to such good folks.

*Daily Bible Commentary on Ephesians to Colossians and Philemon.*  
Hendrickson: Peabody, Massachusetts.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that our unity may one day be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
by our love.  
Peter Scholtes. Song # 112 in the hymnal.

## How the world reads the Bible

### Matthew 7

7<sup>1</sup> Judge not, ~~that you be not judged.~~  
~~For with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again.~~  
~~Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?~~  
~~Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me pull the speck out of your eye," when you do not notice the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first pull the log out of your own eye, and then you will clearly see to pull the speck out of your brother's eye.~~  
~~Do not lay a beam of your own log in your brother's eye, for you will not be able to pull it out, and you will only hurt your brother.~~

## News:

**Joy Gibson** is undergoing radiation treatments.  
**Brian Miller**, friend of Marc and Jen Cavasos, is not well.

Billy Martin requests prayers for her friend **Rose**.

Pete Waller's mother **Mary Waller** broke her knee.

**Jimmy Johnson** has gone to be with the Lord.  
Funeral services will be at the church building on March 21 at 3:00 P.M. We will be providing finger foods for the family.

The **Copper Corridor Churches of Christ Family Reunion** will be on Saturday, March 28 at the San Pedro Valley Lion's Club in Mammoth, AZ. From 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Fellowship meal is today after services.

March 29 is the 5<sup>th</sup> **Sunday contribution**. The *worthy cause* the contribution will support is Church of Christ Disaster Fund.

## Prayer List:

- Joy Gibson—cancer treatments*
- Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration*
- Ken Cocke—back and shoulder pains*
- Janet Radar—nursing home*
- H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia*
- Mike Cavasos—constant pain. Foot surgeries.*
- Sandy Cavasos—degenerative disk disease*
- Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs*

