

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

22 March 2015

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Our Lord's prayer (John 17)

A.M. Lesson:

A new life (1 Peter 4:1-11)

P.M. Lesson:

Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)

Wednesday:

What is a hardened heart (Romans 9:17)?

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

Judas, the son of perdition

Neil Short

Was Judas *predestined* to be lost? I am about to support the position that Judas was not *predestined* to be lost; but I will first acknowledge that a passage within the Lord's priestly prayer seems to support Judas' destiny to perdition (hell).

When I was with them I kept them safe and watched over them in your name that you have given me. Not one of them was lost except the one destined for destruction, so that the scripture could be fulfilled (John 17:12, NET). King James Version calls Judas "the son of perdition."

Jesus seems to be claiming here that keeping his apostles or that losing one (Judas) was a fulfillment of scripture. We must take care to not place more burden upon a passage than it is intended to support. John 17:12 supports the truth that Judas' loss was a fulfillment of scripture. It does not require that Judas' loss was a fulfillment of a prophecy directly about Judas. I know of only a few passages that are quoted to show that Judas "fulfilled" scripture. One is quoted in Acts 1:20.

For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his habitation become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it'; and 'His office let another take' (RSV).

The verse quotes from Psalm 69:25 and Psalm

109:8. Psalm 69:25 speaks of David's enemies in the plural, not singular as Peter quoted it. Peter modified it a bit to apply to Judas. Peter's use of the scripture was not to show that Judas was spoken about by David; but rather, something David said in Psalm 69:25 can be repeated in application to Judas. He is quoting it much like somebody today may quote a famous speech and apply the quote to a contemporary event. *Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.* He is applying David's words without applying David's specific meaning. David's situation regarding his enemies paralleled the apostles' situation regarding Judas.

Peter also merged Psalm 69:25 with Psalm 109:8 to bolster his proposal, with classical language, that Judas' apostolic vacancy needed to be filled. Psalm 109:8 is about an unrighteous judge, probably a priest, who tolerated mistreatment of the poor.

Jesus similarly applied Psalm 41:9, about David's betrayal by Ahithaphel, to his current situation with Judas in John 13:18.

I am not speaking of you all; I know whom I have chosen; it is that the scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me' (RSV).

A reading of the Psalm reveals the passage is about neither Jesus nor Judas. In the same Psalm, verse 4 clearly does not apply to Jesus.

As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal

me, for I have sinned against thee" (Psalm 41:4, RSV)!

Thus, there seems to be no Old Testament prophecy directly about Judas or about his relationship to Jesus. We now return to our original question: Was Judas *predestined* to hell? Let us examine the evidence.

Judas left everything to follow Jesus (Mark 10:28=Matthew 19:27).

Judas was given authority to cast out demons, heal the sick and preach the gospel (Matthew 10:1-27).

Judas' name was written in heaven (Luke 10:20).

He had a throne in heaven upon which he would judge Israel (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30).

Although Jesus called Judas a devil (John 6:70) he also called Peter "Satan" (Matthew 16:23).

Even Peter lost his salvation at one point (Mark 8:38; Matthew 10:33; cf, Matthew 26:34). Peter's restoration to salvation required conversion, or repentance (Luke 22:31-32).

Judas began his apostolic vocation on the right foot; but somewhere along the line he took a wrong turn, embraced a selfish attitude and hatched a plot against Jesus. The scriptures report in John 6:70-71 and 13:10-11, 26 that Jesus was aware of Judas' plans.

Judas was not *predestined* for hell; but he became so destined by his own choices. He destined himself by embracing sickness in his heart. Another example of this kind of destiny is seen in Acts 13:48. *When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers* (NRSV).

The reason these Gentiles were disposed (destined) to eternal life is because they were receptive to the gospel. *As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next sabbath* (Acts 13:42, RSV). Earlier, the Jews disrupted Paul's sermon. He explained that the election, to be enjoyed by the Gentiles in just a few minutes, belonged to the Jews; but the Jews rejected it and thus were forfeiting their election. *And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold,*

we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46, RSV).

Thus, in those few days, the Jews in that town prepared their own hearts to be unreceptive to the gospel and they disposed (destined) themselves against eternal life. Clearly, on some later occasion, those same Jews might have chosen to be receptive and then oriented themselves towards a better destiny. We too should examine ourselves to determine if our hearts are receptive to the gospel. We must heed Paul's warning that the Jews ignored. *Beware, therefore, that what the prophets said does not happen to you:*

'Look, you scoffers!

Be amazed and perish,

for in your days I am doing a work,

a work that you will never believe, even if someone tells you"

(Acts 13:40-41, NRSV).

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**.

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. March 29 is the 5th **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

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