

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

19 April 2015

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Ed Curry

A.M. Lesson:

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P.M. Lesson:

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Wednesday:

Romans 11

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

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| 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
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.*

The believer's responsibility to warn

Neil Short

According to scripture, it is a prime responsibility of one who knows of a dangerous situation to give warning to anyone who is at risk and to do whatever she can to minimize the risk.

"When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be clear. But if the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death" (Exodus 21:28-29, RSV).

The same principal applies if a believer is aware of the danger a person is in with respect to his eternal security. It is the believer's duty to warn. Consider God's charge to Ezekiel:

If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you will have saved your life. Again, if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and

commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you have not warned him, he shall die for his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand (Ezekiel 3:18-20, RSV).

Ezekiel felt a prophetic burden to warn a people in danger of God's wrath.

This passage in Ezekiel was certainly in the mind of Paul in Acts 18 when he turned away from his mission work at the synagogue and began to teach the Gentiles in Corinth.

When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedo'nia, Paul was occupied with preaching, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles" (Acts 18:5-6).

Paul, like Ezekiel, felt the prophetic burden. In Corinth, as was his custom, he went to the Jews first and also the Gentiles. After the Jews had been solemnly warned and they vigorously resisted (with arguing, persuading and testifying, vs. 4-5), Paul and his comrades focus their attention on Corinthian Gentiles.

We should be aware of possible judgmental blame for keeping our mouths shut when we should be giving a defense of our hope.

Further, we know that Paul was grieved over the Jewish proclivity to disbelieve in Jesus as the Christ (Romans 9:1-5; 10:1-4). There are many to whom we testify who resist belief. It makes us sad; but such sadness should not prevent us from continuing to preach nor should we have anything less than wholehearted praise to God for the *some* who do become believers.

News:

Jeannie Robinson is requesting prayers for her daughter Andrea. She has been ill with something indicated by spiking fevers and abdominal discomfort.

Brian Miller, friend of Marc and Jen Cavasos, has taken a very hard turn for the worse. Marc and Jen traveled to be with him on Thursday. We have no more information as of press time.

Brent Whitman (McCabe) died yesterday (Saturday) morning. His funeral will be in Safford at the Church of Christ. He will be buried in Pima Cemetery beside his mother Arlene. The services date is yet to be determined. Brent grew up in Morenci. He is the step-son of H.L. Boling.

Joy Gibson is undergoing post-surgery cancer treatments.

There will be a **fellowship meal** after services in the annex.

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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<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

