

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

24 May 2015

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

The burial of Jesus (John 38:1ff)

A.M. Lesson:

In memory of (Luke 22:14-20)

P.M. Lesson:

A tree and its fruit (Matthew 7:15-23)

Wednesday:

Submission to authorities (Romans 13)

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
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.*

Psalm 11

Holman Christian Standard Bible
with some thoughts

Refuge in the Lord

For the choir director. Davidic.

1 I have taken refuge in the Lord.
How can you say to me,
"Escape to the mountain like a bird!"
2 For look, the wicked string the bow;
they put the arrow on the bowstring
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in
heart.
3 When the foundations are destroyed,
what can the righteous do?"

The psalmist professes trust in the Lord. His associates are counseling him to take action that is sensible in light of intimidating odds. The suggestion is to retreat from the enemy: *Escape to the mountain like a bird!* It is better to face difficulty with the Lord than without him. In the question, *What can the righteous do?* there is an implied answer: nothing. A better question is, "What can man do?" The psalmist is interested in what God can and will do.

**4 The Lord is in His holy temple;
the Lord's throne is in heaven.
His eyes watch; He examines everyone.**

He is still present in the midst of his worshipers no matter how fiercely people or nations may rage. God has not abdicated, nor is he dead. His presence may not be demonstrated by a visible sign other than the change that it makes in individuals and in circumstances, but that is adequate. Associations influence lives, and when lives are influenced, strengthened, and motivated in association with God, we realize that he is present. This nearness of God, his imminence, is one of the cardinal teachings of the Scriptures, and it was this assurance that gave the psalmist confidence in time of trouble. Yet God also transcends this earth. He is not like some weak mortal; The LORD's throne is in heaven. And from this dual vantage point—on earth and in heaven—he knows what transpires among humankind. **He observes the sons of men.** Not only so, but he discerns between the good and the evil. **His eyes examine them,** or "test" individuals. "he takes their measure at a glance" (NEB). God is aware! (S. Edward Tesh and Walter D. Zorn, *Commentary on Psalms: Vol 1*, Joplin: College Press, 1999)

5 The Lord examines the righteous and the wicked.

He hates the lover of violence.

God tests the righteous and the wicked. See also Genesis 22:1ff; Exodus 16:4; Judges 2:22; 3:1-4; James 1:2-3.

“There are times when the Lord allows trials to come into the life of the righteous as a test. But God’s actions are more severe toward the wicked, whom he hates. The Hebrew word for *hates* is a strong term that speaks primarily of rejection” (NKJV Study Bible Notes).

“God does not shield believers from difficult circumstances, but he examines (or tests) both the righteous and the wicked. For some, God’s tests become a refining fire, while for others they become an incinerator for destruction. Don’t ignore the tests and challenges that come your way. Use them as opportunities for you to grow” (Life Application Study Bible Notes).

6 He will rain burning coals and sulfur on the wicked;

a scorching wind will be their portion.

7 For the Lord is righteous; He loves righteous deeds.

The upright will see His face.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

News:

Hattie Hedrick update?

Mike Cavassos’ twin brother Mark is receiving treatment for a heart aneurysm.

Louella Briggs is out of town.

5th Sunday contribution is coming up on May 31. The “worthy cause” will be the India missions.

Ben and Jackie Mereness will be here on May 31 for evening services.

Prayer List:

Joy Gibson—cancer treatments

Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration, recovery from oral surgery

Ken Cocke—back and shoulder pains

Janet Radar—nursing home

H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia, grief comfort

Mike Cavasos—constant pain, foot surgeries

Sandy Cavasos—degenerative disk disease

Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs



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