

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

19 July 2015

***I will give to the LORD the
thanks due to his
righteousness,
and sing praises to the name
of the LORD, the Most High.
Psalm 7:17, NRSV***

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.

***Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them. Psalm 111:2
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.***

An apostolic benediction

Robert Black
comments on 1 Timothy 6:21b

Grace be with you. The benediction is brevity itself, but it carries much meaning.

A benediction is a blessing, and grace, God's unmerited favor toward us, is the best blessing of all. In each of his letters, Paul closes "gracefully." Here is a sample.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you" (Romans 16:20b, where Paul places the benediction several verses before his closing ascription of praise to God).

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14).

"Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love" (Ephesians 6:24).

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen" (Galatians 6:18).

In 1 Timothy 6:21, the pronoun *you* is plural. Even though the letter is addressed to Timothy as the [preacher], Paul meant for it to be read to the entire congregation. All of them—[preacher] and people alike—needed a gracious God, and they had one.

So do we.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons (1 Timothy 4:1, NRSV).

Resisting the Devil

Robert Black

In his preface to *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis says that there are two traps into which Christians can fall with regard to Satan. The first is to ignore the reality of the threat he poses. The second is to become obsessed with it. That spiritual warfare is real does not mean that the Devil is behind every flat tire or lost key ring, or that exorcism ought to be a regular ritual in our worship services. Popular novels about spiritual warfare may have confused more saints than they awakened. Yet it is true that there is an unseen world at war around us, and it is necessary that we choose sides. The defectors in 1 Timothy 4:1 made the wrong choice.

Robert Black. *1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon: a Bible commentary in the Wesleyan tradition.* Wesleyan Publishing House, 2004.

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall (Matthew 7:24–27, NRSV)!

What will we believe?

Neil Short

What we believe is what moves us to act.



Some people will believe almost anything. There is a product that shows up advertised on television every once in a while. It is called the **Flex Belt**. According to advertising, all you have to do is put this belt on and hit the switch and you work out your abdominal muscles—while you kick back and relax!

Some people believe this stuff enough to lay down their money for it!

Jesus said that hearing his words and doing them is the mark of wisdom.

Do we believe Christ? All we need do is inspect our own actions.

Trust and Obey

J. H. Sammis, 1877. #853

5. Then in fellowship sweet,
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way.
What He says we will do,
Where he sends we will go.
Never Fear, only trust and obey.

Begin your prayer time with the Lord's Prayer, aware of the faith and dependence it expresses.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen (Matthew 6:9-13, KJV).

News:

Hattie Heddrick passed on July 11. Her loved ones are in need of comfort.

Ken Knowlton is recovering from dental work.

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

P.J. Waller is expected to have spinal disk surgery soon.

Prayer List:

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

Neil Short, editor. neshort@yahoo.com.
<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

