

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

20 December 2015

## Topics

### A.M. Bible Class:

They gave of themselves (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

### A.M. Lesson:

The Word became flesh (John 1:14)

### P.M. Lesson:

Presenting God's Word (Colossians 1:24-2:5)

### Wednesday:

Patience in suffering (James 5)

### 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.***

## Cleansing through blood

Kerry Williams, Jonesboro, AR

*And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and ruler over the kings of the earth. To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood (Revelation 1:5, NKJV).*

Blood is typically something we wash off, not something we wash with. As an organic substance, we want to limit our contact with blood, so that risk of infection is minimized. When we prepare meat, the amount of time we spend cooking is determined by how long it takes to cook away the blood. In the medical world, professionals are particularly careful to wear protective gloves any time they may come in contact with blood. In our culture, blood is almost always something to be avoided.

Yet the Scriptures frequently extol the cleansing quality of Christ's blood. The Hebrew writer says that it "*Cleanse(s) your conscience from dead works*" (Hebrews 9:14), showing that His blood is what can purge our guilt and provide our minds with peace. Believers do not cower away from the image of our Savior's blood. We embrace it. Indeed, the Apostle Peter even refers to it as, "*the precious blood of Christ*" (1 Peter 1:19).

Aren't the paradoxes of our faith marvelous? Just as we die to live (new birth) and serve to be exalted,

we wash in the blood of Jesus so that we can truly be whiter than snow!

## Fellowship with God

Don Readhimer, Muskogee, OK

*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians 1:9, NKJV).*

We need to stop and think about this. God wants to have fellowship with us. We are not talking about some lower level person, not just a leader of a country, not just a billionaire, but God! Stop and think about God, all His knowledge, all His wealth, all His power—the ruler of the Universe. Why would God desire our company? Honestly, I don't know. All I can say is that He does, according to the Bible. But what an opportunity! What a privilege! To fellowship with God!

What does fellowship mean? The word used in 1 Corinthians 1:9 is the Greek word "koinonia." Some meanings are: fellowship, association, communion, participation, intimacy, partnership, and having in common. That is what God wants with you. Koinonia. Fellowship is a privilege that we cannot even comprehend. True fellowship with God hinges on our ability to admit our sin. God forgives sin, but it must be dealt with; it must be seen as an affront to God.

Until sin is recognized as a personal attack on God Himself, it can never be forgiven and there can be no real fellowship with God! There is only one plan that works to remove the guilt of sin. God's plan: Repent of your sin, trust God totally, be baptized for the remission of your sins, and through Jesus Christ His Son, He will remove both your sin and your guilt.

*But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ* (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

What a privilege it is to have fellowship with God. We must respond to God's call, through the gospel, and fellowship with Him.

## Motivation for soul-winning

Less McGalliard, Moore, OK

I've been thinking about motivation for evangelism. What thoughts should fill our minds as we contemplate the condition of souls that have never obeyed the gospel of Christ? Let's meditate together on the following:

Every human being on the face of the earth is lost outside of Jesus. Paul says that there is no condemnation to those who are "in Christ" (Romans 8:1). In other words, those who are not in Christ are condemned. They are condemned by sin in their lives. No man, woman, boy or girl beyond the age of accountability is immune—all are sinners (Romans 6:23). And the only way we can get into Jesus is to be "*baptized into Christ*" (Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-4).

The gospel is the only power that God has to save. Paul said he wasn't ashamed of it and that he was eager to preach it (Romans 1:15-16). He said that we stand in it and are saved by it (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The preaching of the gospel is the means that God has ordained for the transmission of it to the world. Only by sharing the gospel will men be saved. God does not miraculously plant the knowledge of the gospel in the hearts of lost people (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Corinthians 1:21).

Jesus is the only Savior. Salvation is not found in

New Age religion, Mohamed, Confucius, Buddha, or in Judaism. It is found in Jesus alone. Peter clearly stated the matter when he declared: *There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved* (Acts 4:12).

Jesus is only going to save His church. That is not politically correct, but it is true. Paul said that Jesus is the "*Head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior*" (Ephesians 5:23). If He is going to save His body and His body is the church, then people must be a part of his body to be saved. The church does not save but is composed of the saved.

If we really believe that these things are true—really believe them—what motivation will that provide to reach lost souls? When we understand and are convicted that the truth and truth alone will make men free, we will be compelled to share it!

## News:

Gina Miller, a close friend of Mike and Sandy Cavasos's, might have cancer.

Linda Arnette, a close friend of Billy Martin's, is worried about her two sons, Joseph and Cody, who are using street drugs.

Ken Knowlton is going to have surgery on his lip on January 6.

## Extended prayer list:

*Robin Richards—depression, back pain*

*John Cunningham—cancer*

*Norma Robinson—health*

*Linda Boling—health*

*H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia*

*Ken Knowlton—cancer on his lip*

*Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration*

*Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs*

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