

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

3 January 2016

## Topics

### A.M. Bible Class:

Attitudes in giving (2 Corinthians 8:16f)

### A.M. Lesson:

Goals (2 Corinthians 5:9)

### P.M. Lesson:

When I am lifted up I will draw all men to me  
(John 12:20-36)

### Wednesday:

Singing

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.*

## Judgment involves reward

Scot McKnight



Protestants naturally chafe at Jesus' routine use of "reward" as language for what good people get at the hand of God for their proper way of life.

Because it is hard for many

to accept this "economy of heaven," it is important to list a few texts that use the word "reward" as the eternal consequences of moral living.

"Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:12, NIV2011)

"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." (Matthew 6:1)

"Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a

righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." (Matthew 10:41-42)

Clearly, for Jesus, entrance into the kingdom corresponds to how one has lived one's life; the good enter the kingdom, while the evil are banished from the kingdom and destroyed. One of the clearer statements along this line can be found in Mark 10:28-30.

Then Peter spoke up, "we have left everything to follow you!"

"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life."

Both now and in the kingdom one receives the reward for following the will of God: in the now one

receives a new family among kingdom citizens, and in the age to come one receives “eternal life,” the abounding life of God forever and ever in the fellowship of God’s people.

For Jesus, our life is a probation and God is the judge. Entering into eternity cannot be taken for granted because those who enter the kingdom must meet certain conditions. Jesus is the Bread of Life; he is the Gate; he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Those who want to enter the kingdom must listen to him and do what he says. The reward for responding to Jesus is fellowship in the kingdom community now and eternal fellowship in that same community in the kingdom of God.

Scott McKnight, *Kingdom Conspiracy: Returning to the Radical Mission of the Local Church*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2014), 186-188.

## House to house

Terry Townsend, Jasper, AL

Someone once said that “every man needs to hear the call of the Gospel message before he hears the trumpet call to Judgment!” I couldn’t agree more! God has entrusted within us, his earthen vessels, the Gospel treasure (2 Corinthians 4:7), and he commands that we share it with those living in darkness (cf., Matthew 13:1ff; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:10ff; Philippians 2:15-16; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 2:9). The Gospel, God’s power to save (Romans 1:16; James 1:21), will be the standard by which all will be judged in the last day (John 12:48).

The apostle Paul took seriously his evangelistic responsibility. To the Ephesian elders he wrote, “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:20-21, KJV).

The early church, amidst extreme persecution, “went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). They believed in the coming Judgment and the terror of the Lord, and thus sought to persuade men before it was too late (cf., Acts 17:30-31; 24:25; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11). And so should we!

One day the Lord will “descend from heaven with

a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God” (1 Thessalonians 4:16), and on that day only those who have heard and obeyed the Gospel will be saved! May we, servants of the Lord, “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them [teach the lost] to come in [obey the Gospel] that His house [the Lord’s church] may be filled” (Luke 14:23).

## The love of God

Meir ben Isaac Nehorai

Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love  
of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry.  
Nor could the scroll  
contain the whole  
Tho’ stretched from sky to sky.

## News:

Ken Cocke fell and hurt his shoulder. He is expected to have a lengthy recovery.

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

The Shorts are out of town today.

## 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*

