

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

14 February 2016

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Paul's boast (2 Corinthians 1:18f)

A.M. Lesson:

The right to call God our Father (John 1:1-18)!

P.M. Lesson:

The limited commission (Matthew 10:1f)

Wednesday:

Christian Evidences (in the Annex)

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.***

Acts 26:16-29

NKJV

16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now[a] send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. 21 For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"

25 But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. 26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."

28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

29 And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

King Agrippa's response

Life Application Study Bible

Like great-grandfather, like grandfather, like father, like son—this tells the story of Herod Agrippa II. He inherited the character flaws of generations of powerful men. Each son followed his father in weakness, mistakes, and missed opportunities to know God. Each generation had a confrontation with God but failed to realize the

importance of the moment. Herod Agrippa's great-uncle, Herod Antipas, actually met Jesus during his trial but failed to see Jesus for who he was. Agrippa II heard the gospel from Paul but considered the message mild entertainment. He found it humorous that Paul actually tried to convince him to become a Christian.

Like so many before and after, Agrippa II stopped within hearing distance of the Kingdom of God. He left himself without excuse. He heard the gospel but decided it wasn't worth responding to personally. Sadly, his mistake is not uncommon. Many who read his story also will not believe. Their problem, like his, is not really that the gospel isn't convincing or that they don't need to know God personally; it is that they choose not to respond.

What has been your response to the gospel? Has it turned your life around and given you the hope of eternal life, or has it been a message to resist or reject? Perhaps it has just been entertainment. It may seem like too great a price to give God control of your life, but the price is minimal compared to living apart from him for eternity because you have chosen not to be his child.

A little leaven

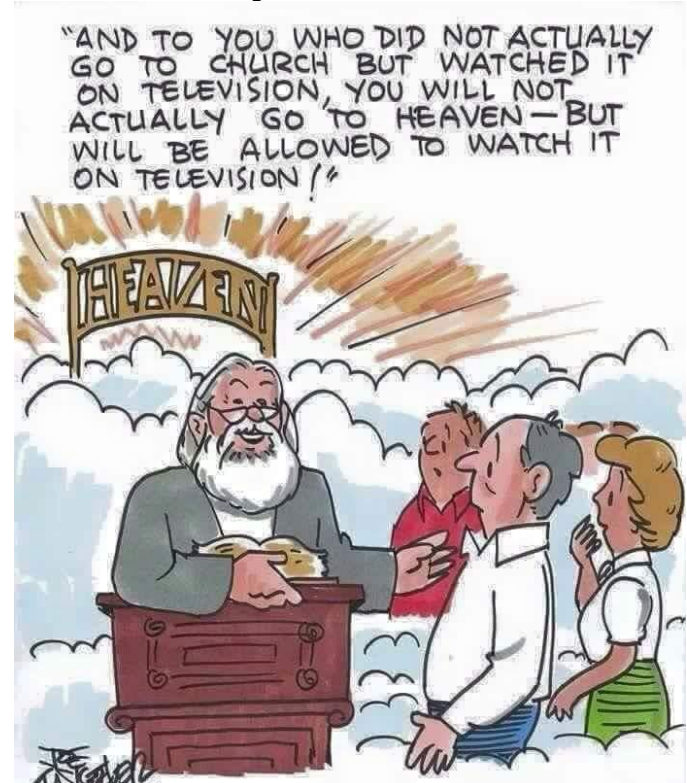
Terry R. Townsend, Dayton, OH

On two separate occasions the apostle Paul penned, "*A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*" (1 Corinthians 5:6; Galatians 5:9). In both passages, Paul speaks of leaven from a negative aspect. To the church in Corinth, fornication from within was having a negative influence on both the church and community. To the Galatian brethren, Paul points out that Judaism was having an adverse affect throughout the region. Their evil and hypocritical influence was contaminating the church as a whole.

But Jesus, on one occasion, spoke of leaven from the positive standpoint. In His Kingdom parables (Matthew 13:1), Jesus compared the church to leaven. He said, "*The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened*" (Matthew 13:33). Chemically speaking, leaven is a lump of sourdough in which putrefaction has begun, and, upon being introduced into a greater mass of fresh dough, produces by contagion a similar

condition into the greater mass with which it comes in contact. Applied spiritually, the church of our Lord is to be an influence for good throughout the world.

Standing either for good or bad, leaven was a figure for any strong and persuasive influence. In this Kingdom parable, Jesus said that God's kingdom should grow and spread like leaven. May we live in such a way that our influence will contribute to that growth!



Prayer list:

Dan Keele—mission work

Sam Appleton—declining health

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—surgery recovery

Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration

Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs

