

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

13 March 2016

## Topics

**A.M. Bible Class:**

God's family (Hebrews 2:10f)

**A.M. Lesson:**

Daily Bible reading (1 Timothy 4:1-10)

**P.M. Lesson:**

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

**Wednesday:**

Christian evidences

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.*

Jeremiah 7, NRSV

3 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place.

4 Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD."

5 For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, 6 if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt,

7 then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever.

8 Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail.

9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known,

10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, "We are safe!"—only to go on doing all these abominations?

11 Has this house, which is called by my name,

become a den of robbers in your sight? You know, I too am watching, says the LORD.

12 Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

## The grace of God is not a license to sin

Neil Short

It is a common claim. "Nobody is perfect." Sometimes the claim is accompanied by a Scripture: ... *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23).

The above passage is misapplied to mean that *all must sin* and that sin is inevitable; so don't worry about sin.

God's view of sin is that it *is* a big deal. The sacrifice of Christ is evidence of the very high price of sin. Because we are under grace now and not under Law, some believe (as evidenced by their actions), our own sinful habits are continuously covered—no matter how carelessly we engage in them. This comfortable deception is just not anything close to reality. God notices when we are

getting comfortable with our sin and thus we are in danger of rejecting God's grace (Hebrews 10:26-27 with context).

In the days of the prophet Jeremiah, the nation of Judah was threatened by a new and destructive empire. The empire of Babylon was boosting its economy by conquering smaller nations and making their people into slaves. Judah and all her neighbors were threatened by Babylon. Jeremiah's message to Judah was that the people would be brutally conquered and many of the young and educated survivors would be deported to Babylon to serve Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king.

The priests and false prophets rejected Jeremiah's message and criticized him for not preaching a more optimistic message. Jeremiah challenged the message of the false prophets as dishonest.

*They dress the wound of my people  
as though it were not serious.*

*"Peace, peace," they say,  
when there is no peace" (NIV2011).*

As Taylor Swift says, "Band-Aids don't fix bullet holes."

Jeremiah's invitation was to repent and turn back to God. Babylonian captivity is not inevitable. The people can be beneficially thwart the prophecy by turning back to God.

The people were comfortably that the presence of the temple in Jerusalem would provoke God to act against Babylon. God would not permit the destruction of the city where the temple is (Jeremiah 7:4). They saw the presence of God's temple as a kind of unconditional grace. As long as the temple was in Jerusalem and the people approached God's presence there, in full reverence, it did not matter how they behaved the rest of the time (they believed).

God, through Jeremiah, reminded the people that an authorized shrine to God, and all the correct worship the people could muster would not save them if they continuously neglected godly living. A center of God's presence once existed at a monument called Shiloh. The Tabernacle was once located there. According to Jeremiah 7:12, Shiloh was destroyed. The fact that Shiloh was a place for God's name did not save it. The people of Shiloh were comfortable with their sin. Sin was a big deal to

God!

There is definitely a lesson for us in Jeremiah 7. Do we think we are the only ones who are right with God simply because we do our corporate worship correctly? How healthy is each of our souls? Is there anything more to our relationship with God than correct worship? or is our faith only in the correctness of our worship and right doctrine?

In numerous places in the Bible, we are reminded that righteous living is what God wants, in addition to proper corporate practices ("doing church").

Remember one of the Lord's criticisms of the scribes and Pharisees:

*For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. (Matthew 23:23)*

We must daily live Christian lives and not neglect the formal practices and doctrines that the Scriptures teach us.

## ***Prayer list:***

*Dan Keele—mission work*

*Christian Children's Home in Portales, New Mexico*

*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*

*Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration*

*Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs*



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