

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

10 April 2016

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

A.M. Lesson:

P.M. Lesson:

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.*

Faith is the victory

East View Church of Christ Bulletin

Polycarp was an elder for the church in Smyrna. He was a close disciple of the Apostle John. Polycarp is best known for his faith exhibited in the face of death. The story of his death is one of the first to be recorded and circulated among the churches. He was martyred in February 156 at 86 years of age after having served as an elder for more than 50 years.

The church at Smyrna wrote a statement for the brethren in general, telling of those who had died for their faith at Smyrna. There is every reason to believe that this record is true. It tells of the arrest of Polycarp and how, because of his age, the officer tried to persuade him to say "Lord Caesar" and to sacrifice to the gods that he might be spared. He refused to do so and when brought before the Proconsul, his freedom was offered if he would revile Christ. To this Polycarp said, "For eighty and six years have I been His servant, and He has done me no wrong, and how can I blaspheme my King who saved me."

After being further threatened with wild beasts and fire, Polycarp said, "You threaten me with the fire which burns for a time, and is quickly quenched, for you do not know the fire which waits the wicked

in the judgment to come and in everlasting punishment." With this he was bound and burned at the stake.

Polycarp remained faithful unto his Lord "even unto death." His faith brought victory to his soul. He did not fear those that might inflict the body with pain for a time. Rather, he feared Him who was Lord both of our body and soul.

*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world;
and this is the victory that has overcome the world
—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the
world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of
God?*

1 John 5:4-5

Who is the most important?

Neal Pollard

The late Raymond Kelcy, when asked who is the greatest preacher in the brotherhood, is said to have replied that he was likely a man laboring in obscurity somewhere out of the lime light of things. Perhaps, too, our greatest preacher or teacher could be doing that work thousands of miles from the United States in Zambia, Tamil Nadu, Java, or Greece. Perhaps the Lord's greatest living servant is not a he, but a she. She may be unknown to most of

us, a poor or old Christian lady caring for orphans, supporting a missionary or preacher student, or quietly winning her neighbors. The Bible's greatest giver quietly dropped two copper coins in temple coffers, and we would not know a thing about her if not for Christ.

Isn't that the problem with the question, "Who is the most important?" It's the wrong question to ask. That didn't stop the disciples from seeking the answer to it (Luke 9:46; 22:24). Jesus would reply that greatness and importance comes through humble service. When we look at our weak, sin-prone lives, we should be prevented from any self-aggrandizements or vainglories. When we realize the enormous price Jesus paid to allow us entrance into His salvation and His body, our perspective ought to be clarified. When we understand the enormity of the task He's given us to accomplish, we cease having the time to worry about "who is the greatest." We don't worry about who gets the credit or the praise. We become more inclined to ask, "What can I do to help?" Asking that question leads one down the path of greatest value to God!

The power God

Paul Vaughn, Whites Creek, TN

We live in a world that respects power. Each nation is seeking more than their neighbors. There are power struggles in the work place, in the home, and sadly in the church. Yet, most do not understand what has real power. Have you ever considered words as being powerful? Yes, words! The right word can elect a man to the presidency of the United States of America. The wrong word has cost many their jobs.

The Bible teaches that God's power to save is in His words, the gospel. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek"* (Romans 1:16). *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12). It has the power to change a life for good. It has the power to help a man be a better husband and father. It has the power to help a

woman be a better wife and mother. It has the power to enable young people to grow exhibiting moral character, changing their life for the good.

If one perverts the power of God, the gospel, they are accursed, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8-9). All should see the importance and the power of the gospel, God's word, if we do we would spend more time in Bible study.



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. | John 10:27

News:

We will send off Keith and Linda Yoder with an Ice Cream Social, April 16, 2 P.M. at the church building.

Prayer list:

Jonda Gardner has requested prayers for her brother Randy.

Joy Gibson has requested prayers for her family.

Christian Children's Home in Portales, New Mexico

Dan Keele—mission work

Robin Richards—back pain

Sam Appleton—declining health

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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