

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

24 April 2016

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

God's Word (Hebrews 4:12f)

A.M. Lesson:

The Way to Heaven (John 14:1-6)

P.M. Lesson:

The battle belongs to the Lord (Isaiah 54)

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 6:16 (NKJV)

Thus says the Lord:

“Stand in the ways and see,
And ask for the old paths, where the good way is,
And walk in it;
Then you will find rest for your souls.
But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

Ask for the ancient paths

Alex Varughese

Yahweh commands them to stand by the roads and look and ask for the ancient paths. The imagery of a traveler being called to decide between the right and the wrong path of journey is utilized here. Commentators associate roads with the wisdom tradition's emphasis on the two ways of life. Ancient paths most likely mean the Torah guidelines that Yahweh has established for



Israel, the covenantal path on which Israel once walked. Yahweh offers the present generation that has wandered away from that ancient path an opportunity to return to the path of the Torah traditions of the past. The ancient path is the good

path—the way that leads to life and covenantal relationship with Yahweh. This is the path of Moses, Samuel, and David. Yahweh's command ends with the promise of rest for his people, if they choose to walk on that good path. Rest is freedom from anxiety and fear—experience of shalom—that one can have when traveling on the right path in the right direction. But the response of the people to Yahweh was no. They rejected Yahweh's call to reform their ways and follow the Torah requirements.

The call to look for the ancient paths invites the modern readers of this text to reorient and refocus their priorities, values, beliefs, and practices. To Jeremiah's original audience, it was a call to the torah-centered life, to become once again God's covenant people. It also meant a life anchored in the great historical and theological traditions of the past, encapsulated in the stories that were handed down by the previous generations. They rejected that call and opted to travel on the wrong road in the wrong direction by stubbornly disregarding the signposts, markers, and warning signs. At the crossroads where they stood were paths with too many seductive attractions along the way. They chose to reject the way that led to life and opted for the path that led to their destruction.

The path that remains as the good path, then and

now, is the path for life established by God. The ancient Torah requirements invited Israel to live as God's holy people in the world, to walk in the path of wholehearted love for God and love for one's neighbor. This remains to be the path that leads to life. This remains to be the path that leads weary souls to their rest. Those who stand at the crossroads today hear the gracious invitation of Jesus, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). *Jeremiah 1-25*. Beacon Hill Press. 2008. 107-109.

News:

*Mike Cavasos is being treated for a strange infection in his eyes.
Mike Cavasos's uncle and aunt, Pancho and Elaine Carnevale are in the hospital being treated for pneumonia and COPD, respectively.*

Greg Briggs had his second eye surgery last week. The Portales Christian Children's Home pantry van will be here approximately April 26. Our pantry item is canned tomato foods.

Prayer list:

*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*
Neil Short, editor. neshort@yahoo.com. <http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>



MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Singing	5	6	7 Jennie Cavasos birthday
8 Mother's Day Caren Tree birthday	9	10	11	12	13 Cassandra Kescoli birthday	14 Bob Benitez birthday
15 Fellowship Meal	16	17	18	19	20	21 Connie Mayo birthday
22 Pete Waller birthday	23	24 Clay Cocke birthday	25	26	27	28 Chad Cavasos birthday
29 Brian and Billie Martin anniversary	30 Memorial Day	31				