

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

1 May 2016

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Jesus the great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14f)

A.M. Lesson:

The truth will set you free (John 8:32)

P.M. Lesson:

Under God (Daniel 4)

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.*

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NRSV)

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

For Christ's sake

Ron Stough

One of the basic attitudes of this generation seems to be "What's in it for me?" The entire premise of the life of Christ, however, was living for the sake of others. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 8:9, reminds us that for our sakes Christ left the riches of Heaven for the poverty of earth. The word "sake" is an old Anglo-Saxon term, "sach," meaning cause or lawsuit. When we do something for someone's sake, we do it for his best interest. Because of what Christ has done for our sakes, we are motivated to live for his sake.

For Christ's sake we are to forgive one another. Ephesians 4:32 reminds us that we forgive others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us. The lesson here is simple: we forgive

others, not because they always deserve it, but for the sake of Christ.

For Christ's sake we serve one another. Paul refers to himself as a servant for Jesus' sake (2 Corinthians 4:5). Sometimes our brothers and sisters are hard to serve. Sometimes we would prefer to promote our own welfare. But for Christ's sake we will "Bend down and wash their feet."

For Christ's sake we pray for one another. Paul urged the Romans to pray for him for Christ's sake (Romans 15:30). We love one another only to the degree that we pray for one another. What a difference it would make in the Lord's church if his people fervently prayed for one another.

Remember, the only life worth living is the one lived for the sake of Christ.

Stopped reading too soon

Dudley Ross Spears, Louisville, KY

Recently I read a short piece by a very good writer who related a problem he helped a friend solve. The friend said he was confused about what some good church going people were

telling him. These good churchgoers advised the man to join a particular church and others told him to be baptized to be saved.

The confused person very clearly stated his desire, "I don't want to read any pamphlets or tracts. Show me straight from the Bible how I can be saved."

The writer said he accepted this challenge and the two began looking at passages in the Roman letter. When they got to Romans chapter 5 the seeker evidently said, "It's clear to me now. All I need to do is place my trust in Jesus Christ." The writer of this piece concluded, "He did, and found peace." I thought of a passage in Jeremiah, "They have healed also the hurt of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace" (6:14).

Had the two read the next chapter they would have come to Paul's testimony about baptism. "Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4). It is "false peace" when one stops reading too soon. In the very next chapter (chapter 6) inspiration tells us that before entering the "new life," the penitent believer must be baptized into the death of Christ to have any benefit from the shed blood of Jesus. They stopped reading too soon.

Had the two read through chapter 12 in Romans they would have seen the importance of being in the right church, the body of Christ, made up of those who walk in the newness of life. "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another" (Romans 12:5). They stopped reading too soon.

It is truly a shame when folks looking for salvation are misled by letting them think all they need to do is have faith in Christ and are saved before and without baptism and can have peace of mind outside the body of Jesus Christ.

News:

Melinda, Joy Gibson's daughter, is scheduled for surgery on May 9.

Billie Martin has requested prayers for professional issues she is experiencing in the workplace.

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.

Prayer list:

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>



"It's a pickle jar, Tom... Twist the lid, not scripture."