

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

10 July 2016

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Jesus' second coming (Hebrews 9:26-30)

A.M. Lesson:

First fruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)

P.M. Lesson:

Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:11f)

Wednesday:

Special study on Covenant

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.*

Is God still faithful?

The Bible presents God as a person who changes his mind in response to changing circumstances (Genesis 6:7; Numbers 21:2; Isaiah 9:17; Jeremiah 17:7-8 and many more). Open Theism is a theological model that believes our understanding of God ought to be informed by how he is described in the Bible. He is a person who is affected by human action.

I, the editor of this bulletin, study and teach from that same perspective and some have posed questions that eventually filtered back to me. The questions were along the order of, "If God changes, how can he be trusted?" A helpful discussion recently took place in the **God is Open** FaceBook group. Hopefully, you will find it helpful as well. I kept the names attached to the comments since they were posted in public.

Jack West

"If God can change His mind and the future is not settled, how do we know that God won't change His mind about saving us?"

That is an actual question I often hear from people who object to Open Theism.

Translation: The only way we can be sure of our salvation is if God is bound forever to save us. God cannot be free or we're doomed.

My answer to this question is simple. "God is good."

When Jesus asked us to "have faith in God," He meant it. Have faith in God. Have faith in God's character, His goodness. He will save all who come to Him because He wants too. Not because He has too. God is free to change His mind about saving us, but He is good and loving so fear not because He won't.

My assurance of salvation is not in some supposed "immutability" that is that God "cannot change in any way." My assurance is in the cross! That fact that He loved us so much to endure the cross proves that His love is so great He would never forsake us.

Danae Marie Carroll: People assume that change means something flawed or imperfect. But He was still perfect when He changed to put on flesh and be like us.

John Moore: Jack, you hit the nail on the head with your statement "Have faith in God's character." It is God's nature and character that He has revealed to us and that we have "faith in"

that makes our faith of value... It is NOT blind faith!

Omar Reyes: God's character and God's history precludes God changing his mind in that way. God really loves God's creation! And we are the crown jewel of that creation

Rest from their labors

Chad Ramsey

God's Word is very plain in its declaration that men ought to work. Whether we consider the examples of Jesus – a carpenter (Mark 6:3), Paul – a tentmaker (Acts 18:3), or Peter – a fisherman (Matthew 4:18), it is clear that work should be a part of our lives. Making this point even stronger, Paul wrote: "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

It is also interesting to note that the Bible offers advice about how we do our work. Solomon wrote: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). And Paul wrote: "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:22, 23).

But with all of that being said, Christians have the privilege of looking forward to a time of rest. This time is not merely the retirement that so many long for – it is eternal rest which results from being faithful to Jesus. Describing this John wrote: "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their

works follow them'" (Revelation 14:13). While the labor of the Christian on earth never ceases, the eternal rest which awaits will be worth it all. There is a rest waiting for those who faithfully serve God. It is found in heaven.

News:

George Appleton, Sam and Rita's son from Texas, has been diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. Pray the cancer can be effectively treated.

Tatyana Knowlton will be heading to Ukraine.

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

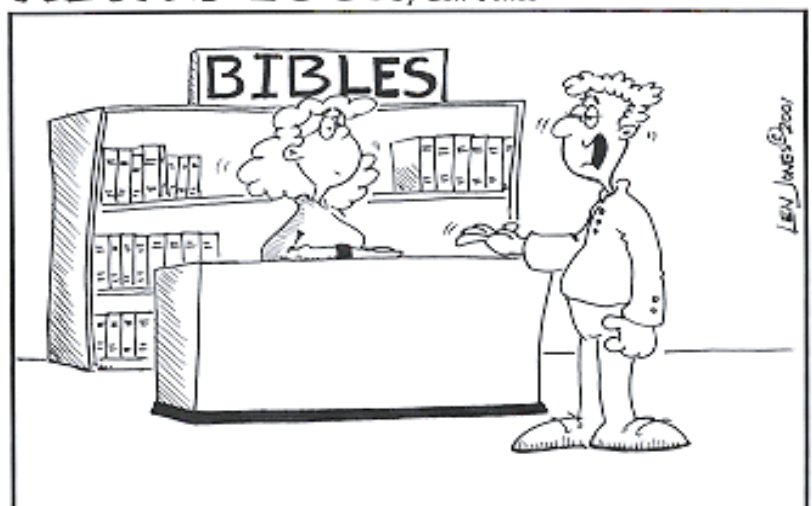
Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration

Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs

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



ALTAR EGO by Len Jones



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."