

From the Preacher's Pen... Last week we looked at how God defines really knowing Him. He says that knowing Him is obeying Him and faithfully following Him. So that leads us to a simple question: If we claim to know and love God but are not actually obeying Him, then who are we serving?

The answer is found, naturally, in a lesson from God:

Where are Your Gods?

Jeremiah, the faithful but unheeded preacher, had a difficult job. He lived in a time when his nation had not just forgotten God but had replaced Him with the most absurd nonsense that they could imagine... you know, much like today!

Listen to the message God gave Him: *As the thief is shamed when he is discovered, so the house of Israel is shamed; they, their kings, their princes and their priests and their prophets, who say to a tree, 'You are my father,' and to a stone, 'You gave me birth.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they will say, 'Arise and save us.' But where are your gods which you made for yourself? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble; for according to the number of your cities are your gods, O Judah.* (Jeremiah 2:26-28)

Now, consider the two huge accusations God presents. First, they are shamed by their foolishness, unfortunately without any sign that they recognize that shame. The whole nation, from commoner to the highest government and religious officials, have turned their back to God.

But NOT their faces! Oh, no, when things get bad enough, then they will want to face God and demand salvation. But God does not accept those who will not obey Him.

Second, God is not fooled by persistent disobedience. Indeed, He scoffs at it and derides those who imagine that their false faith will help them in any way!

If we do not love and obey the Lord then we are honoring, worshipping, loving and obeying a false god. And the Lord will mockingly watch for our false gods to actually do something. Elijah (1 Kings 18), the prophet in Israel many years before Jeremiah, had likewise mocked the false gods that do nothing. And centuries later Jesus (cf. Matthew 6:24) would warn that all people serve either the Lord who actually offers salvation or some false, do nothing god.

Today, people of our world give credit to the most amazingly absurd things rather than to God. Jeremiah's example of a tree or a rock being imagined as giving birth is no more absurd than the modern god of accidental life. Only by turning our backs on God, only by demanding that God be left completely out of the equation can we invent such a ludicrous idea.

Others of our world today invent all manner of gods, false prophets and other hoax stories to justify disobedience to the Lord God. Some are actually so bold (or, to borrow God's term, so foolish) as to claim that all ways and gods are equal and lead to the same place. Jesus commented on the wide road and gate that the multitude are enamored with and follow... and He says that it leads to destruction (cf. Matthew 7:13-14).

All this brings us right back to the same lesson: We must faithfully obey and follow the Lord and Him alone. No other way is right. No other so-called god has anything of worth, nor any power. Nothing short of obedience will save us!

Our nation and our world have blatantly chosen to follow false gods. The Lord has decreed eternal destruction for that choice. What choice will we make?

— Lester P. Bagley

Opportunities to worship, study & serve:

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY 10 AM

WORSHIP 11 AM

EVENING WORSHIP 6 PM

WEDNESDAY 7 PM

THURSDAY LADIES' BIBLE CLASS 10 AM

Congregational Potluck 3rd Sunday
each month after morning worship
(except June, July & August)

Welcome to all!
We are glad you are here!

Enter to Worship...
Leave to Serve



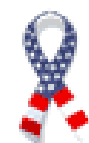
Welcome to our visitors today! We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

Our Prayer List: Keep the following in prayer this week as you "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17): Matthew Odom, Heather Ries, Hunter Shirley, Ruth West, Anna Mae Hardin, the Najera family, Bill Hall, Reta Wallace, Jim Holder, Cindy Turpin, Millie Cunningham, Ray Stephenson, Barbara Harrison, and...

Our Missionaries: Jack Farber and Aaron Knotts and families; Cesario Espinosa, Jr. (Philippines); the Jorge Mora family (NM Christian Children's Home)

Previously Announced Family & Friends: Robin & Marc Estabrook (Julie Evan's sister & nephew), David Reffner (Flora Doster's grandson with MS), Art Stoneking & wife (friends of Carl Catozzi, cancer), Jeremiah Haller (Flora Doster's grandson), Annette (Cindy Turpin's sister), Cole Myers (grandson of friend of Myers), Sheila Simpson, Lillian Wilhite (relative of Lynn Shirley), Teresa Acosta, John Hoover's relatives with personal difficulties, Shelly Cooper (friend of Carl Catozzi), Lucas Espinoza (Brian Campbell's friend), Kaesha Raffterfer (Gene Pinkston's cousin, cancer), Terri Fillipski (cancer, Julie Evans' cousin).

Special Requests: WBS & WEI Bible study students; Kevin & Nancy Chambers & World Christian Broadcasting; Judy Hagner, son Preston, daughter Angela & son James. Brandi Schroeder (Flora Doster's granddaughter with MS); Dallas Purcella's mother; Julie's father; Laurel's father.



OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL: Nate Panka (Cleo Wise's grandson); Javier Najera; Fernando Najera, Frank Torres (Javier's brother & cousin); Eric Shirley; Trevor Farrow (Allen's son); Scott Hoover (John's son); Ariel Gomez; Ismael Lopez; Robinson Goldman (Cindy Turpin's son-in-law); Nathan Bagley.

New: Jason: Carl Catozzi's son in need of prayers; Michael Lightheart: son-in-law of Flora Doster, health problems; Jim Hartdegen: friend of David Davis following a stroke; Sean & Vickie: Carl Catozzi's friends with struggles in their lives; Terri Hoover: John's daughter-in-law with serious health issues; Monica Lopez: Jorge Mora's aunt with breast cancer; Jacob Shirley: struggles; Our former Muslim converts: in danger for their faith; Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma; George Ponter: Brian Campbell's cousin with multiple struggles; Anna Price: via Kimberlee Myers; Kathy Gonzalez: grandmother of Heavyen & Tatum with cancer; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: Lynn's family with illnesses; Tom Hoover: (John's brother).

Steve McDonald: Jean Grubbs granddaughter's husband, tests.
Donald Helton: on dialysis until he has a kidney transplant.
Kirrin Kerby: (Jean Grubbs grandson).

Bob Harrod: cancer

Carolyn Fisher: multiple health issues (via Cleo Wise).

Dena Lara: complications of Valley Fever.

Ken Price: friend of the Halls with kidney disease.

Rick Richarson: Cheryl Campbell's brother with heart problems.

Don McCaully & his son: friends of Carl Catozzi.

Ayanna Rodriguez: friend of Sarah Evans with brain cancer.

Doyle Wise: Flora's brother & Cleo's brother-in-law; bone cancer.

Terry Lara: friend of Davis family with pancreatic cancer.

Amy Vestal: in treatment and rehab.

Verna Whitloc: friend of Cleo Wise with cancer.

Pam Lipper: friend of Beverly Cavanaugh health problems.

Abdul (Andrew) and family in Afghanistan: on the run following several death threats.

Beverly Cavanaugh: in Arkansas caring for her mother.

Machell Booher: Pierce's daughter-in-law (brittle Type 1 diabetic) is not doing well.

Pam Garrett: complications following surgery.

Jake Tess: Bagley's niece's husband with bowel cancer.

Owen Doster: in hospice at home care.

Cindy & the Robert Turpin family

Cathy Fraser: relative of John Hoover in hospital on respirator.

Jerry Odom's sister: recovering from hip surgery.

Ray Stephenson: now out of the hospital.

Erling Schultz: neighbor of Rebecca Untersee with Parkinson's

L.Z. Shirley: took a fall last week but is doing better now.

Delbert White: shingles with a bacterial infection.

Carl Catozzi: having more medical tests.

Brian Campbell: chemo and radiation cancer treatments.

Phyllis Hall: having her second cataract surgery tomorrow.

Also Our New Christians, those travelling and especially those with spiritual struggles.

LaVerne Jackson requested prayers for her mother, Vernell Stephens, and her health problems.

Upcoming Events...

Potluck: **TODAY** — Group #1 [Tanya Haney's group] set-up, serve & clean-up

Monthly Singing: March 31 at 2:30 here.

Men's Business Meeting: April 14 after evening worship.

2 5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: May 29.

Men's Leading & Serving Class

Meets TODAY at 5 pm...

Men (young & older!) training class for leading prayers, doing talks & devotionals, & song-leading.

Let us
give
thanks

Gwendolyn Alredge
put on her Lord in baptism
Tuesday evening as Del Hartfield
baptized her.

Rejoice with the angels in heaven!

Champions for Change!

For NM Christian Children's Home

Time to start getting those change cans filled and returned! — Pick up date is April 26

NEW ITEMS FOR THIS YEAR... We are collecting **Assorted Crackers** and **Microwave Popcorn**. Place in the box in foyer.

Pickup for everything is April 26

Sermon Recordings

If you would like a recording of a recent sermon please email your request to Carl Catozzi at ccatozzi@cox.net and he will email you a link.

If you wish to make a CD you are granted permission for personal use.

We hope to also have CDs available in the sound room soon.

Remember to be QUIET
for our Pew Packers between
Bible Study & Worship!

Congregational Project

Cottage fund for George & Chantelle @ NM Christian Children's Home. Use the marked envelopes to contribute.

Last Week: 4+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ Checkup ✓ How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Class = 65

Sunday Morning Worship = 124

Sunday Evening Worship = 74

Wednesday Evening = 53

Giving

2019 Weekly Budget = \$3,126.00

Contribution Last Week = \$3,218.00

Church of Christ
805 East Racine Place
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning March 17

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Curt Odom
Song Leader:.....Allen Farrow
Prayer:..... John Hoover
Serve Communion:....Riley Harrison, Derwin Jackson, Bill Hall, Gary Pierce, Eric Aragon
Sermon: • *Colossians 1:1-12*..... Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Mike Evans

Count Contribution: Mike Evans & Bill Hall

Sunday Evening March 17

Song Leader:.....Allen Farrow
Prayer:.....Charlie Stephenson
Sermon: • *Old Testament Parables - 7*..... Lester Bagley
Serve Communion:.....Bill Hall
Closing Prayer: Chuck Hedrick

Wednesday Evening March 20

Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:..... Kim Myers
Devo:.....Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer:Mike Evans

Anniversaries



March 17: *Brian & Catrina Campbell*
March 28: *Thomas & Adele Fink*
April 5: *Archie & Karen Peterson*
April 15: *Delbert & Sue White*
April 25: *Michael & Barbara Grubbs*
May 1: *Dell & Carla Hartfield*

Birthdays



March 17: *Allen Harrison – Markus Smith*
March 22: *Sherri Fields – Joe Vitela*
March 26: *Anna Hardin*
March 28: *Charles Hedrick*
March 30: *Nelwynn Holland*
March 31: *Jim Rouse*
April 3: *Sue White*
April 4: *Archie Peterson*