

From the Preacher's Pen... Last Sunday, the day after April Fools Day, an elder friend of mine shared a thoughtful article with me from a sister congregation in Texas. The lesson is an always important one for us to remember. Consider the lesson of...

April Fools

One of the more interesting holidays on the calendar is April 1st, "All Fools Day." Most of us think of this date simply as "April Fools' Day". It is a day for pranks and practical jokes to be played on friends, or on any unsuspecting person we might be able to hoodwink in some way. One of the best April Fools' Day jokes ever pulled was done by a disc jockey at an oldies station in Portland, OR. About midway through his morning show, and without any warning, he announced that the station was changing its format from oldies to all heavy-metal, all the time. At that point he began playing the loudest, most obnoxious heavy-metal song in the station's library.

The effect was immediate. As the heavy-metal tune droned on, the station's phone lines lit up like a Christmas tree. Anguished listeners called in to complain, and to beg the station to return to its oldies format. After some minutes had passed the DJ came back on the air with the word, "April Fools!" He could hardly contain his laughter at having pranked the entire city of Portland, OR.

In cases such as this, where innocent fun is the sole objective, most of us are willing to be "fools". This is because there are no serious consequences to having been made a fool in such an instance. On the other hand, though, there are occasions when being a "fool" is not funny. King David of Israel spoke of one of these occasions in Psalm 14:1. He said, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good." There is no way to mistake David's point. Knowing God as he did, David knew that to deny God's existence was the height of folly. Only a fool would take such a position.

Paul echoed this perspective in Romans 1:18-20, where he said, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

In other words, God left His unmistakable fingerprints all over creation so everyone on earth would know that He exists. This evidence is so complete and clear that the inspired apostle said those who refuse to believe it are without excuse. He went on in v. 22 to say of such people, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." These are the ones whose abominable deeds are described in the ensuing verses of this chapter, and for whom the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against them (Romans 1:18).

Another instance in which one may become a fool is to reject the counsel of God's word. In Proverbs 1:7 Solomon said, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." This is a powerful condemnation, especially considering the fact that Jesus said that God's word is truth (John 17:17), and that His word will judge us at the last day (John 12:48). In Matthew 7:21 the Lord made His strongest statement in this regard. He said that only those who do the Father's will are going to enter heaven. Knowing these truths, then, it is absolute folly to ignore God's commands. Those who do so are fools in the most complete sense of this word.

Therefore, we must pay heed to the words of Paul, who said, "So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). Whatever month or day it may be, do not be a fool. Believe in God and obey His word so you will be wise. Those who do so will have a home in heaven at the end of time.

— Fred Dominguez in Pecos, TX online bulletin article

In our lifetimes we will all do many foolish things. Hopefully we actually learn from them and do not make those same mistakes over and over. When it comes to really important things, like knowing and obeying God we need to take extra care to avoid the foolish and do the wise things.

What will you choose to do this week?

— 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! **Visitors Last Week included:** Harold & Mary Forbes of Morgantown, WV; Dave & Edwina Warner of Benton, IL; Ralph & Janet Royse of Tipp City, OH; Mickey Dewitt of Lamar, CO.

Our Prayer List: Keep the following in prayer this week as you "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17): Nora McNeil, Matthew Odom, Lois Nowlin, Heather Ries, Hunter Shirley, Rene Turner, Ruth West, Everett Martin, Anna Mae Hardin, Jennette Ivory, Eric Aragon, the Najera family, Bill Hall, Reta Wallace, Jim & Ann Holder, Kristi Martin, Wally Myers and...

Our Missionaries: Jack Farber and Aaron Knotts and families.

Previously Announced Family & Friends: Robin & Marc Estabrook (Julie Evan's sister & nephew), David Reffner (Flora Doster's grandson with MS), Art Stoneking (friend of Carl Catozzi, cancer), Leslie Hill (John's mother, cancer), Jeremiah Haller (Flora Doster's grandson), Annette (Cindy Turpin's sister), Cole Myers (grandson of friend of Myers), Sheila Simpson, Lillian Wilhite & Danny Wilhite (relatives of Lynn Shirley), Teresa Acosta, Rosemary Glasier (Crystal Mora-Landroth's mother), John Hoover's relatives with personal difficulties, Shelly Cooper (friend of Carl Catozzi), Lucas Espinoza (Brian Campbell's friend), Sharon Laurita (Barbara Grubbs friend, cancer), Kaesha Raffterfer (Gene Pinkston's cousin, cancer), Randy Landreth's dad (cancer), Chuck Keels (friend of Grubbs with 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; Paulina's father (Arnold); Julie's father; Laurel's father, Marla Henderson'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; Paul Sipes & April Belovedstone (Sue Wolfe's son & daughter); Robert Strickland (Cleo Wise's grand-nephew); Ismael Lopez; Robinson Goldman (Cindy Turpin's son-in-law) Nathan Bagley.

New:

Jason: son of Carl Catozzi in need of prayers.

Dr. Yanni: friend of John Hoover with cancer.

Susan Fowler: friend of Bob & Sherry Harrison with MS.

Michelle Harrison: daughter of Bob & Sherry, spiritual struggles.

Michael Lightheart: son-in-law of Flora Doster, health problems.

Carlene Cunningham: Jeanne Martin's sister-in-law with cancer.

Amy Vestle: lupus.

Jim Henness: friend of Odom's with back problems.

Jimmy Handtegen: friend of David Davis following a stroke.

Derwin Jackson & family: with his job.

Sean & Vickie: Carl Catozzi's friends with struggles in their lives.

Terri Hoover: John's daughter-in-law with serious health issues.

Monica Lopez: George Mora's aunt with breast cancer.

Rhett Booher: Gary & Toni Pierce's grandson with chronic migraines from Traumatic Brain Injury while in the Army.

Melinda Wendt: Julie Evan's aunt in hospice.

Jacob Shirley: struggles.

Marty Hall: son of the Halls recovering from surgery.

Ray Stephenson family: youngest son's cancer has spread.

Jerry Odom: recovering from shoulder surgery

Ann Holder: in Oasis room C-109

Millie Cunningham: also in Oasis room C-109

Allen Farrow & family: at his brother's passing.

Barbara Grubbs: recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Michael Hill: diagnosed with arthritis in back & hip.

Sherry Harrison: recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Kay Kerby: friends of Tom Haney

Adele Fink: surgery for colon cancer April 12.

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

Champions for Change!
For NM Christian Children's Home

Cans are available in the foyer. Time to take one, fill and return it. We are also collecting Liquid Dishwasher Detergent for the home..

Pickup is scheduled for April 28

Upcoming Events...

Potluck: April 16 — Group #4 [Laverne Jackson's group] set-up, serve & clean-up

Monthly Singing: April 30 at 2:30 in Coolidge.

Men's Business Meeting: April 2 after evening worship.

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: May 31

Box for Deployed Military Personnel

If you would like to help out here are items needed:

- *Thank you cards (16 to 20 address them to: Dear Soldier)
 - *Tic-Tacs
 - *Beef jerky (must be beef only, no pork products allowed)
 - *flavored water mixes
 - *gum
 - *crackers
 - *instant coffee (packages of instant- example: *Tasters Choice*)
 - *popcorn (and other salty snacks)
 - *peanut butter (the small package ones)
 - *any type of hard candy (example: *Worthers*)
 - *local newspapers
 - *crossword puzzles
 - *Rice Krispies treats
 - * Wet wipes / Baby wipes
 - * Eye drops
 - * Toiletries: Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, cotton swabs, shaving lotion, disposable razors, shampoo, individually packaged tissues.
 - * Personal care: Individually packaged baby wipes, eye drops, lip balm, lotion, aspirin or other pain reliever, feminine hygiene products for women.
- Any items that can spill or leak should be placed in freezer-type plastic bags (the bags are useful, too, when they arrive!)

Other Events in April

Saturday, April 22 @ 4-7 p.m.
Family Night

Congratulations to Hayden & Riley Harrison & the Coolidge Percussion Band for 2nd place in State finals!

.....
Doing good to all people...
(Galatians 6:10)

Thus far in April, our clothing room workers have clothed over 84 people!
Next open to the public: May 8

Last Week: 3+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ *Checkup* ✓
How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Class = 54

Sunday Morning Worship = 112

Sunday Evening Worship = 64

Wednesday Evening = 55

Giving

2017 Weekly Budget = \$3,180.00

Contribution Last Week = \$3,950.77

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

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning April 9

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Jerry Odom
Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:.....Charlie Stephenson
Serve Communion:.....Chris Didelotte, Allen Farrow, Tom Haney, Frank Campbell, Gary Pierce
Sermon: • *Matthew 26 - Part 1* Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer:Bill Hall

Count Contribution: Mike Evans & Bill Hall

Sunday Evening April 9

Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:.....David Davis
Sermon: • *Two Christians* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion:..... Tom Haney
Closing Prayer: Delbert White

Wednesday Evening April 12

Song Leader:.....Mike Evans
Prayer:..... Jim Holder
Devo:.....Albert Bailey
Closing Prayer:Jerry Odom

Anniversaries



April 15: *Delbert & Sue White*

April 25: *Michael & Barbara Grubbs*

May 1: *Dell & Carla Hartfield*

May 14: *Brett & Jessica Myers*

May 28: *George & Nancy Young*

May 30: *Jerry & Billie Odom*

Birthdays



April 10: *Christina Polito*

April 11: *Cheyenne Campbell*

April 12: *Michael Farrow*

April 13: *Ivy Didelotte - Alexander Pascucci*

April 13: *Alexandra Beyer - Branden Mora*

April 18: *Krystal Ramirez*

April 22: *Charles Jack*

April 23: *Millie Cunningham*