

**From the Preacher's Pen...** One of the most difficult jobs that you will ever have will be on the Judgment Day trying to convince the Lord God that you should be in Heaven! Jesus on several occasions talked about that day when people would try to talk their way into His eternal kingdom (cf. Matthew 25).

Unfortunately, none of those efforts actually work. If we do not really DO God's will and truly live like His people then we cannot talk our way into heaven.

That should lead us to remember God's frequent lessons about missing out on His blessings. So let's take a few moments to consider...

## Are You Missing God's Blessings?

There's a story about a young man who was about to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in the dealer's showroom. Knowing that his father could easily afford it, he told his father what he wanted.

As his graduation day approached, the young man waited for some sign that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the day of his graduation, his father called him into his private study and told him how proud he was to have such a fine son and how much he loved him. Then the father handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and discovered a lovely, leather-bound Bible with his name embossed in gold. Angrily he threw the Bible down and yelled at his father, "With all your money you gave me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house.

Years passed but the son never spoke to his father again. He married, had a family, a beautiful home and a successful business. But one day he finally realized that his father was getting very old and perhaps he should go and see him. Unfortunately, before he could make the trip, he received a call that his father had passed away.

When he finally arrived at his father's house, sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's papers and found the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears filling his eyes he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse, Matthew 7:11, "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!" As he read the words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had wanted so long ago. On the tag was the date of his graduation and the words, "PAID IN FULL."

Do we, too, miss God's rich blessings when they come in ways that we didn't expect? Could we be disappointed with God, estranged from Him, only to discover the truth too late?

God's most precious blessings are reserved for those who love Him enough to act like it. Think about the rich lessons in God's word. Life, understanding, knowledge and ultimately wisdom are found in those lessons. The wrapping, the packaging may not be what we would like or expect so we miss what is most valuable when we fail to open our eyes.

Last Lord's Day two of our brothers in Christ presented lessons from God's word. They were words of life... if you cared enough to listen. Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings we take time to study the Bible together, time to listen and consider some of God's lessons. If you miss out what do you gain? A nice movie or a ball game or countless other things you could be doing will not get you to heaven and they certainly won't make a worthy excuse before the Judgment Seat of God. Are you really so foolish as to imagine that they will?

Jesus asked the question like this: "What will it profit a person if they gain the whole world and forfeit their soul? Or what will a person give in exchange for their soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

Don't let it happen to you! Open your heart and eyes, be faithful to Him every day in every way this week and allow Him to truly bless you in being an active, living part of God's family here in Casa Grande! "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

— 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** Tom & Pat Cates of RedDeer, Alberta, Canada (will be back as winter members next year).

**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 & wife (friends 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), 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 Lighthouse:** 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.

**Jacob Shirley:** struggles.

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

**Jerry Odom:** recovering from shoulder surgery

**Barbara Grubbs:** recovering from hip replacement surgery.

**Sherry Harrison:** recovering from knee replacement surgery.

**Kay Kerby:** friends of Tom Haney

**Adele Fink:** recovering from surgery for colon cancer.

**John Mark:** in Afghanistan as he is in danger for his faith.

**The Saints in South Sudan:** as they face great trials.

**Mason Compton:** nephew of Billie Odom.

**Ann Holder:** went home last week but may have to return to rehab.

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

## Help Update Our Prayer List!

If you have someone listed in our *Previously Announced Family & Friends* prayer list & would like them to REMAIN on the list, please fill out one of the *Prayer Request* cards in the foyer & give it to Lester.

A BIG thank you to those that have given updates! It really helps keep us all up-to-date.

## Upcoming Events...

**Men's Business Meeting:** TONIGHT after evening worship.

**Potluck:** May 21 — Group #1 [Tanya Haney's group] set-up, serve & clean-up

**Monthly Singing:** May 28 at 2:30 in Eloy

**5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting:** May 31

## Thank You!

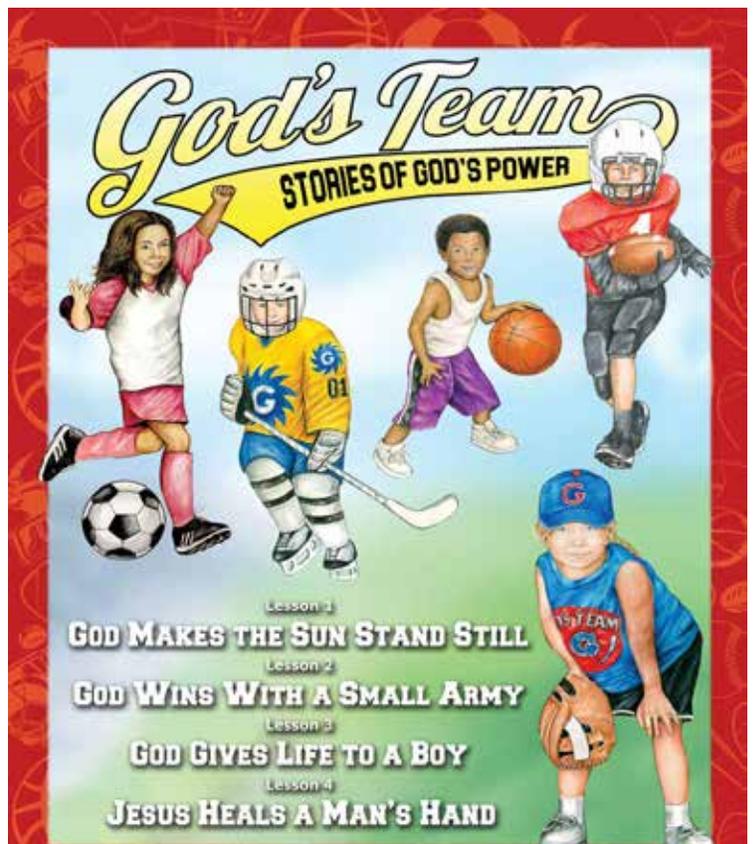
Last Sunday we enjoyed a report from the New Mexico Children's Home by Thom Moore and sermons by Kim Myers (AM) and Jerry Odom (PM). Remember to share your thanks with these men!

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*Doing good to all people...*

(Galatians 6:10)

*Thus far in May, our clothing room workers have clothed over 39 people!*

*Next open to the public: October 2*



### VBS at the Church of Christ

805 East Racine Place, Casa Grande

Monday, June 12 — Thursday, June 15 + Parents night Thursday, 7 pm

Registration at 9:30 • Activities 9:45 am to 11:30

Ages 3 through High School

## Last Week: 12+ Pew-Packers



**Be "in the picture" every week!**

✓ *Checkup* ✓  
*How are we doing?*

*Attendance Last Week:*

*Sunday Morning Bible Class = 61*

*Sunday Morning Worship = 135*

*Sunday Evening Worship = 44*

*Wednesday Evening = 61*

### *Giving*

*2017 Weekly Budget = \$3,180.00*

*Contribution Last Week = \$2,904.60*

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

Postage

**TO:**

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday Morning May 7

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* ..... Lester Bagley  
Announcements: ..... Curt Odom  
Song Leader:..... Mike Evans  
Prayer:..... Chuck Hedrick  
Serve Communion:.... Brian Campbell, Bill Hall, Tom Haney,  
Frank Campbell, Paul Ries  
Sermon: • *Matthew 27 - Part 2* ..... Lester Bagley  
Closing Prayer: ..... Jerry Odom

*Count Contribution: Curt Odom & Max Compton*

### Sunday Evening May 7

Song Leader:..... Mike Evans  
Prayer:..... Kim Myers  
Sermon: • *Recipe for a Great Church*..... Lester Bagley  
Serve Communion:..... Tom Haney  
Closing Prayer: ..... John Hoover

### Wednesday Evening May 10

Song Leader:..... Curt Odom  
Prayer:..... Albert Bailey  
Devo:..... Jerry Odom  
Closing Prayer: ..... Bill Hall

## Anniversaries



May 14: *Brett & Jessica Myers*  
May 28: *George & Nancy Young*  
May 30: *Jerry & Billie Odom*  
June 1: *Bob & Sherry Harrison*  
June 7: *Jorge & Chantelle Moro*  
June 10: *Jim & Anne Holder*  
June 25: *Howard & Judy Hagner*

## Birthdays



May 9: *Roy Holland*  
May 11: *Pete Wise*  
May 14: *Katheryn Haddad*  
May 15: *Leanne Hill*  
May 17: *J.J. Hill - Paulina Stutenroth*  
May 19: *Mickey Didelotte*  
May 20: *Jenny Reid*  
May 21: *Angela Harrison*