

From the Preacher's Pen... Do you actually belong to God? It's easy to claim anything you want, but others will eventually see through the false claims and recognize the fakes, the frauds that are out there.

So how do we tell? God has a very simple standard: Those that actually know and do His will belong to God. Those that fraudulently teach, misrepresent the truth and do something that is *not* God's will do not belong to Him and should never be listened to or fellowshiped.

Consider this lesson a bit further:

Do and Do Not Do

One of the earliest lessons that we learn as human beings involves right and wrong; things we do and things that we should not do.

Sometimes those lessons are learned by making mistakes such as when we burn ourselves on a hot stove. Other times we can learn those lessons by listening to instructions and obeying them. And sometimes we just fail to learn at all and end up making the same mistake over and over again.

The Apostle John as an elderly preacher had both learned that lesson himself and taught the same to literally generations of Christians. Earlier in his life, as one of the "Sons of Thunder," he was anxious to call fire from heaven to destroy a city (Luke 9:54). But with years came knowledge and as he writes the letter of 1 John to younger Christians he repeatedly advises them of the importance of love.

Unlike many people, John (and God, too!) understands that love, real love involves teaching obedience. Because that is true we find that while 1 John contains some 46 references to love, the letter also contains a multitude of direct references (some 50) to obedience, what to do and what not to do.

Let's consider a few of those lessons: John begins (1 John 1:6) with the blunt reminder: *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."* God is never going to be fooled by what we claim when it is repudiated by how we act. The word that many versions translate as "practice" is actually the verb "to do." So claiming to be a child of God (have fellowship with Him) and yet failing to walk in the light means that we are failures. As we fail to actually do God's will we fail to actually be God's family.

In case we missed that point John repeats it in 1 John 2:4: *"The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."* Say whatever you want, claim whatever you desire but without obedience to God, actually doing His will, you are nothing but a liar.

So how much failure can we "get away with?" That is the wrong question and God's answer is none! In Scripture the very concept of "what can I get away with" is always contrary to obedience. The very idea of "walking in the light" (1 John 1:7) contains the attitude, the desire, to do only what is right and never what we can get away with.

Just in case we missed that point, John underlines it with several specifics that we might try to get away with. Hating our brother or sister is defined as "walking in darkness" (1 John 2:11). Loving the world or the things in/of the world is to miss out on God's love (1 John 2:15)!

In some ways the most severe criticism from God comes in 1 John 2:21. With God's word as our guide we cannot claim ignorance! We can never tell God, "I didn't know better." If we fail to know the truth the fault is ours, not His. There is never any excuse for ignorance because it always means that we chose not to learn, not to obey.

Wait, can't I just get away with doing a few things wrong? 1 John 3:10 points out that failure to do right, failure to practice or work at doing the right things is proof... proof that we are children of the Devil and not of God.

Well I'm sure that I can find someone that believes and teaches that I can get away with what I want! Actually, you can! There are countless "teachers" and "preachers" out there that will tell you what you want to hear. So you really do NOT have to do all this hard work of knowing and doing right! Unfortunately, for those that wish to live this way John labels their teachers as false prophets that we should never listen to, never believe (1 John 4:1).

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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: Tom & Pat Cates of RedDeer, Alberta, Canada (last Sunday until winter); Mickey & Sharon DeWitt of Lamar CO; Steve Frank (taking his mother home until winter).

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: back at Oasis Room C-109A.

Ray Stephenson: is in Oasis Room D-103.

Millie Cunningham: now at Caliche Senior Living (corner of Cottonwood & Peart) – visits are okay but must be approved by both staff & her son, so check with the main desk.

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

NIV Bibles available...

Katheryn had to order a case of NIV Bibles for Ladies Bible Class but she will have extras if you would like to purchase a copy.

These are large print with cross references, maps, etc & cost \$3.75.

See her today to reserve a copy.

Upcoming Events...

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

Men's Business Meeting: June 4 after evening worship.

If we would be family members of the King of Kings, if we would actually belong to the Royal Priesthood of God we must actually do the things He calls us to do. In spite of all the religious claims out there, we must get it right and do only what is God's will or else we are wrong (read 1 John 5:12).

In the end, we only fool ourselves when we fail to truly know and do God's will.

— Lester P. Bagley



Happy Mother's Day



to all of our moms!

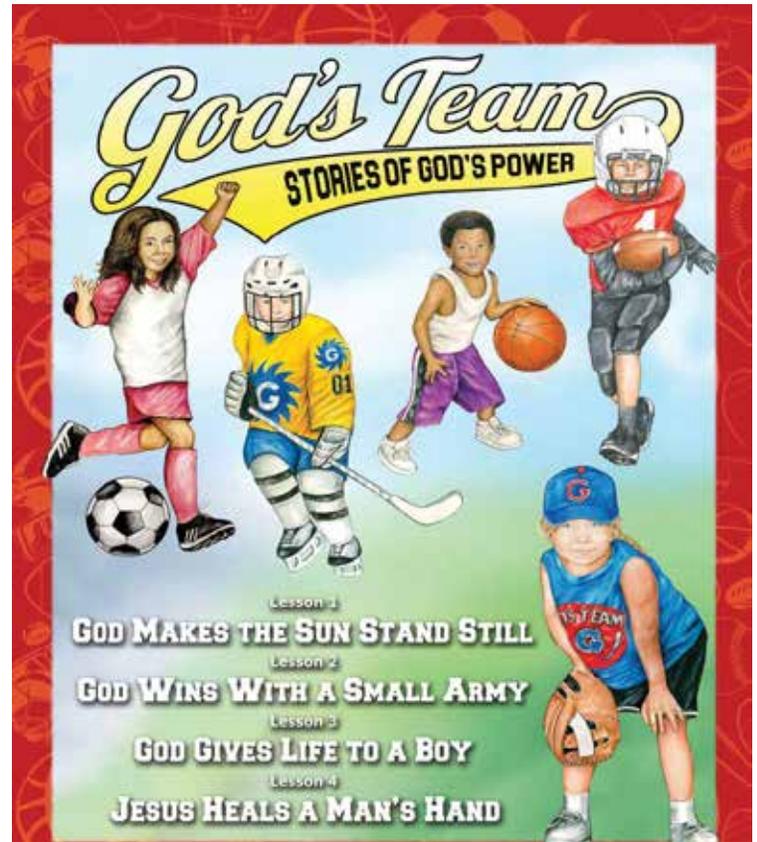
CONGRATULATIONS!

Anthony Carriaga

Hayden Harrison

We are very proud of these young men as they graduate from High School.

And we pray God's richest blessings on them for their future!



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

Early registration, flyers & invitation cards available next Sunday!

Last Week: 10+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ Checkup ✓

How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Class = 60

Sunday Morning Worship = 112

Sunday Evening Worship = 37

Wednesday Evening = 57

Giving

2017 Weekly Budget = \$3,180.00

Contribution Last Week = \$4,025.35

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

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning May 14

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Jerry Odom
Song Leader:..... Tom Haney
Prayer:..... Jim Holder
Serve Communion:..... Jeffrey Coleman, Ray Ochoa, Curt Odom, John Hoover, Max Compton
Sermon: • *Matthew 28 - Resurrection!* Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Mike Evans

Count Contribution: Mike Evans & Bill Hall

Sunday Evening May 14

Song Leader:..... Tom Haney
Prayer:..... David Davis
Sermon: • *Worship in the New Testament* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion:..... Curt Odom
Closing Prayer: Albert Bailey

Wednesday Evening May 17

Song Leader:..... Jorge Mora
Prayer:..... Jim Holder
Devo:..... Mike Evans
Closing Prayer: Jerry Odom

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 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*
May 24: *Everrett Martin - Jazminn Didelotte*
May 26: *Ezekiel Hill - Christina Sanchez*