

**From the Preacher's Pen...** Have you ever heard someone say that there are people in the world that are much better people than Christians? The discussion is really a beat-down of godly people with two intentions. First, it claims that Christians are just imperfect hypocrites that don't deserve any credit for anything good that they may do. Second, it claims that when an ungodly person does something good it actually ought to impress God and count for some kind of "points" toward salvation.

So lets' take a moment to examine the question...

## Does it Really Matter Why We Do Anything?

To begin with let's notice an observation that author T.S. Eliot once made about one of his characters:

*The last temptation is the greatest treason:*

*To do the right deed for the wrong reason.*

His point was that the character actually was just fooling himself by believing that something right could be done for a selfish reason. In much the same way it is sometimes argued that people do deeds just as good, or perhaps even better than Christians. Yet God does not give praise to the "good deeds" of the ungodly.

So, does it actually make a difference why we do something? Is T. S. Eliot right in telling us that doing the right thing for the wrong reason is the worst kind of self-deception?

Let's consider a simplified example. If doing the right thing for the wrong reason is okay with God, that means everyone that dives into the water or willing goes underwater for any reason has actually been baptized for the forgiveness of their sins!

Virtually no one would ever accept that argument! Of course, immersion in water for the wrong reason is not what God calls baptism! Why would any other good deed done for the wrong reason (in God's eyes) somehow confuse God?

Now consider something that the Apostle Peter said: *For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?* (1 Peter 4:17-18)

Since it requires a great sacrifice by Jesus and a repentance with actions that show the truth of our repentance (that's what Acts 26:20 actually says!), it is NOT ever going to be done any way other than intentionally! And lest we miss the point Peter plainly states that the ungodly (those that fail to do God's will for whatever reason) and the sinner (those that reject doing God's will) will have no chance at salvation.

The apostle Paul puts the positive spin on it like this: *For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe* (1 Thessalonians 2:13). Only in those who are obedient children of God does the good work become Godly good work.

Consider how great it is to serve the Lord God and bring glory to our Heavenly Father! How sad to think that someone would do great things and fail to give the honor and glory to God!

Yes, some may do good things without being Christians. But only Christians do things because of what God has done for them. Only those actively obeying God's will are credited with doing the "deeds worthy of repentance!"

Will you serve Him who died for you?

— 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*



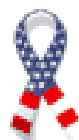
**Welcome to our visitors today!** We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

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

**Our Missionaries:** Jack Farber and Aaron Knotts and families; JunAyoks Casianoespinoza (Philippines).

**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 & Mirlene Smith (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), 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.



**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); Destanie Aragon; Nathan Bagley.

**New:** Jason: son of Carl Catozzi in need of prayers; Dr. Yanni: friend of John Hoover with cancer; Michael Lightheart: son-in-law of Flora Doster, health 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; Jacob Shirley: struggles; Ray Stephenson family: youngest son's cancer has spread; John Mark: in Afghanistan in danger for his faith; Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma; Adele Fink: recovering from colon cancer; George Ponter: Brian Campbell's cousin with multiple struggles; Amy Vestal: lupus and intestinal problems; Anna Price: via Kimberlee Myers; Chuck Hedrick family: with multiple health problems; Kathy Gonzalez: grandmother of Heavyn & Tatum with cancer. Sue Wolfe; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Celeste Wallace: health problems; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: 2

Lynn's family with illnesses; Ed Baum; Chuck Hedrick; Ray Stephenson; Gene Pinkston: back problems; Delbert White's Granddaughter Jessica; 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).

Shannon White & Talon Bored: friends of the Martin family in need of prayers.

Amy Vestal: having neurological tests.

Joyce Contrares: friend of Carolyn Cox with a kidney mass.

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

Owen Doster: having heart surgery May 10.

Larry Lenderman, Paul Larkin, Bill Isom, Jimmie Don, Jim Henness: friends of Jerry Odom all with medical problems.

Delbert White family: his cousin and cousin's son passed away last week.

Delbert White: surgery soon.

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

## 2018 Directory Update

Be sure to pick up your updates on the table in the foyer!

There is a packet from a few weeks ago of several additions.

There are NEW single sheet additions and updated BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY pages.

If you need a complete directory with or without a binder, please see Lester.

## Upcoming Events...

**Potluck: TODAY — Group #4 [LaVerne Jackson's group] set-up, serve & clean-up**

**Monthly Singing:** April 29 at 2:30 in Coolidge.

**Men's Business Meeting:** May 13 after evening worship.

**5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting:** May 30.

**THE TIME IS NEAR...  
WE HAVE LESS THAN  
2 WEEKS TO GET OUR  
CHANGE CANS AND  
LIQUID DISHWASHER  
DETERGENT IN!**

*Champions for Change!*

*For NM Christian Children's Home*

*It's that time again! Several have already exchanged full cans for empty ones & more empties are available on the table in the foyer.*

*Please return change cans by April 25th.*

*Liquid Dishwasher Detergent is also needed!*

*Pickup for everything is April 28*

**Men's Training Class, 5 pm today...**

for leading prayers, doing talks & devotionals, & song-leading.

## **Church TV Program Reminder**

**In Search of the Lord's Way**

Cox Cable channel 13 @ 7:30 am

Dish channel 239 @ 4 am

DirecTV channel 307 @ 4 am

[www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

**Getting to Know Your Bible**

DirecTV channel 377 weeknights @ 7:30 pm

**Last Week: 9+ Pew-Packers**



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

**✓ Checkup ✓**  
*How are we doing?*

*Attendance Last Week:*

*Sunday Morning Bible Class = 74*

*Sunday Morning Worship = 108*

*Sunday Evening Worship = 59*

*Wednesday Evening = 55*

**Giving**

*2018 Weekly Budget = \$3,015.00*

*Contribution Last Week = -,---.---*

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

Postage

**TO:**

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday Morning April 15

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* ..... Lester Bagley  
Announcements: ..... Bill Hall  
Song Leader: ..... Curt Odom  
Prayer: ..... Jim Holder  
Serve Communion: ..... Gary Pierce, Mike Evans, Bill Hall,  
Frank Campbell, Max Compton  
Sermon: • *Go & Teach* ..... Lester Bagley  
Closing Prayer: ..... Tom Haney

Count Contribution: Mike Evans & Bill Hall

### Sunday Evening April 15

Song Leader: ..... Curt Odom  
Prayer: ..... Ron Cook  
Sermon: • *Jesus* ..... Lester Bagley  
Serve Communion: ..... Bill Hall  
Closing Prayer: ..... John Hoover

### Wednesday Evening April 18

Song Leader: ..... George Mora  
Prayer: ..... Jim Holder  
Devo: ..... John Hoover  
Closing Prayer: ..... Chuck Hedrick

## Anniversaries



April 15: *Delbert & Sue White*  
April 25: *Michael & Barbara Grubbs*  
April 29: *Frank & Cheryl Campbell*  
May 1: *Dell & Carla Hartfield*  
May 2: *Ron & Cathy Cook*  
May 14: *Brett & Jessica Myers*

## Birthdays



April 23: *Millie Cunningham*  
April 25: *Jean Grubbs*  
April 30: *Kyle Davis – Nora Lou McNeil*  
May 3: *Chris Didelotte*  
May 4: *Joan Davis*  
May 5: *Hayden Harrison*  
May 9: *Roy Holland*  
May 11: *Owen Doster – Pete Wise*