

From the Preacher's Pen... Have you ever noticed how some things are "just right" the way they are? It is important for us to remember that "no substitutes, no additions, no changes" is a vital truth of God's word. We sometimes say that a miss is as good as a mile, and with God that is especially true. However you miss, it is still a miss and nothing can make that miss a hit. As Christians we need to make certain that we never...

Go Beyond or Fall Short

While we often remember Balaam for his later failure to honor God, we need to also remember his early faithfulness. Balak, king of the Moabites, was making every effort to persuade Balaam to go against God's commands. Balaam's reply to Balak's servants was, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything, either small or great, contrary to the command of the Lord my God" (Numbers 22:18).

Do we have the same courage to be so determined to obey our God? Can we truly say that we are so faithful to Him that we will do nothing little or big that is contrary to His commands?

As the New Testament is still being written, God constantly includes reminders that the "perfect" revelation, will and instructions of God are the standard that all future generations will adhere to for what is right and wrong. Paul told the church at Corinth that was so inordinately proud of their miraculous spiritual gifts that they were all coming to an end. The gifts of prophecy would be done away with, the "tongues" (speaking a language you had never learned to teach someone else) will cease. Even the gift of miraculous knowledge (knowing the will of God without the effort of study and preparation beforehand) would end. All that was partial and imperfect was to end when the perfect revelation was complete (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

Strangely enough, many years ago someone informed me that this view, this understanding of 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 was unique to the "churches of Christ" and that no other "Bible scholars" saw it that way. Think about that argument for a moment. Even IF the only people that agreed with God (just like in Balaam's case) were those that actually worshipped God, then that would still make it right! Nothing you can believe, say or do will ever make a wrong right.

Worse still, is the fact that many (most?) Bible scholars even in the denominational world (people that will accept some error or false teaching as okay) admit that there is no other way to interpret Paul's words! Like Balaam, many times people that plead their case for disobeying God, nevertheless admit that what God actually says is both true and required if we would obey Him!

The writer of Hebrews challenges us with the same idea. We cannot afford to even *seem* or appear to come short of God's standard. That will lose us our reward (cf. Hebrews 4:1).

As John pens the final words of God in the Revelation, he includes God's command to read, hear and obey "these words" *without change* (cf. Revelation 22:18). God promises to add the "plagues" to those that add to His word. Sounds like God is serious, doesn't it?

Since Jesus promised that God (His Spirit) was the author of all the Apostles' teaching passed on to us (cf. John 14:26; 16:13; Matthew 28:20), it is obligatory that we *only* believe, teach and practice the same things! That is literally what Jesus commands of *all* teaching by His people in Matthew 28:20. Hopefully we all know and understand the concept of the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Everything that God speaks to His people is important! That precept is stated in many ways throughout the Bible and repeated by Jesus to Satan (Matthew 4:4). *Every word that comes from God is our life*. Obviously, words are important and we ignore them at our peril!

That leads to an important reminder. Any time we take a statement of God out of context, we sin and lose sight of godly teaching. An excellent example is found in 2 Timothy 2:14. When Paul tells Timothy *not to wrangle about words*, he is NOT talking about teaching and learning (like we often hear argued) what God says!

Paul is talking about the word arguments that he and Timothy had repeatedly dealt with, the *myths and genealogies* (worldly and pagan things as in 1 Timothy 1:3-4) and includes the *old wives' tales* of 1 Timothy 4:7. Worldly words, ideas, "theological" arguments outside of the revealed word of God have no place alongside the actual holy words of God. By God's definition, His word and only His word is the absolute truth (cf. Psalm 119:160 and confirmed by Jesus in John 17:17).

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): 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; Michael Lighthouse: 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; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: Lynn's family with illnesses; Ed Baum; Ray Stephenson; Delbert White's

Granddaughter Jessica; Tom Hoover: (John's brother); Jerry Odom; Barbara Harrison.

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: recently diagnosed with cancer

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

Owen Doster: having heart surgery May 10.

Delbert White: having surgery May 17.

Dena Lara: Myers' niece with complications of Valley Fever.

Rene Turner family: at her passing last Monday. Services are being planned here at the building for this week.

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

KATHERYN HADDAD is throwing a 78th birthday party for herself at her home. THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED.

9:30 AM, Saturday, May 12

If you would like to give her something, she will take donations for the **Arabic Church of Christ in Jerusalem**. Their preacher of 25 years is Raji Stephans. Most of the time on Sunday Raji makes the rounds of homes around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and a few other suburbs. The rest of the week, he holds individual Bible studies in member's homes for their Muslim friends.

If you would like to help make checks out to Raji's sponsoring congregation in Florida:
Rockledge Church of Christ

Directory Update

Barbara Harrison

c/o Brian Harrison

3949 W. Massingale Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85741

Upcoming Events...

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

Potluck: May 20 — Group #1 [Tanya Haney's group] set-up, serve & clean-up — This will be our final potluck until October

Monthly Singing: May 27 at 2:30 in Eloy

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: May 30.

Since our Lord is truly the great God and Savior (cf. Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1), we learn and obey His words in His context and meaning. We are not called to just obey basic concepts. Our God is able to say exactly what He means and His wisdom is what we need to learn and obey. The psalmist reminds us of those who rebelled against the words of God and spurned His counsel (Psalm 107:11).

One of Jesus' warnings shortly before He left this earth was of "false prophets" that would come after He left (Matthew 24:24). In some of the last words from God to His people, John would remind us that "many false prophets" are out there in the world and we are *not* to believe them. Once again, the standard we compare them to is God (1 John 4:1).

If these things taught by God are all true, then we have a responsibility to learn, believe, practice and continue to teach God's word. The truth, the facts, the way of salvation, the way of worship and service to God, and the way we are to live is all settled. As Jude concluded, we are to contend for (defend) the faith, the truth that was once for all delivered to us (Jude 3).

We have God's word, God's standard, God's requirements for us, our lives and our teaching. If we would be true to God, we must neither go beyond nor fall short of what He says!

— Lester P. Bagley



Monday with the Master

Ages 10 through college meet tomorrow at 6 pm for dinner & Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

See Lou Bagley THIS MORNING if you don't already know what to bring!

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

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

Jerry & Billie want to thank the congregation for all the love that was shown them during Jerry's recent illnesses. Thank you for the calls, cards, visits, food, flowers and especially the prayers. These were all very much appreciated. It is a great thing having such a loving Christian family about you. Thank you again,

Jerry & Billie Odom

Last Week: 10+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

Thank You
Casa Grande Church of Christ
 Our Children continue to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. Thanks goes to you for your constant consideration and help!



We give thanks for you daily and give our FATHER Praise for HIS wonderful Family.....YOU!!!

Thom Moore 575.760.1643 pr.rep@nmoch.org

New Mexico **Children's Home** in Portales

✓ Checkup ✓ How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

- Sunday Morning Bible Class = 81
- Sunday Morning Worship = 126
- Sunday Evening Worship = 58
- Wednesday Evening = 67

Giving

- 2018 Weekly Budget = \$3,015.00
- Contribution Last Week = 3,327.13

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

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning May 6

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Bill Hall
Song Leader: Mike Evans
Prayer: Ron Cook
Serve Communion: Riley Harrison, John Hoover, Tom Haney, Frank Campbell, Paul Ries
Sermon: • *Senses & His Ultimate Gift* Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Tom Haney

Count Contribution: Mike Evans & Bill Hall

Sunday Evening May 6

Song Leader: Mike Evans
Prayer: Jim Holder
Sermon: • *In the First Light* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion: John Hoover
Closing Prayer: Curt Odom

Wednesday Evening May 9

Song Leader: Curt Odom
Prayer: Chuck Hedrick
Devo: Mike Evans
Closing Prayer: Bill Hall

Anniversaries



May 14: *Brett & Jessica Myers*
May 15: *Owen & Flora Doster*
May 28: *George & Nancy Young*
May 30: *Jerry & Billie Odom*
June 7: *Jorge & Chantelle Mora*
July 3: *Michael & Clara Hill*

Birthdays



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