

From the Preacher's Pen... When I leave the USA to travel overseas, and again when I return home I am required to show proof of my citizenship. Apparently, I can't just claim to be Superman from the planet Krypton and get a way with it!

Is the same thing true with serving God? Does what we actually say and do matter? Let's consider God's requirements for...

Proof of Obedience

We all understand those simple facts about citizenship when it comes to earthly matters. What's sad is that many people assert you can just fool God by claiming (perhaps very loudly as Elijah once suggested to the followers of Baal in 1 Kings 18?) to be a Christian even if you never actually do and prove the things that really go into making a Christian.

When the world says, "*Just accept or welcome Jesus into your heart and you will be saved*" they are NOT quoting from Scripture but rather are contradicting everything God actually says! In Matthew 7:21 Jesus flatly states, *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.* In the next two verses (22 and 23) He expands their complaint to the Judgement Day: *Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.'*

Without proof, without obedience we are NOT saved and we are NOT Christ's family! So the urgent need becomes a question of HOW to prove our claim. The answer from God is that our obedience to God is our proof!

The doctrine of faith alone (the more accurate meaning is: wishful thinking!) resulting in salvation is never taught by God. Jesus demands that we understand this: *Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?* (Luke 6:46) *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.* (John 14:15) *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.* (John 15:10)

The Apostle John obviously faced the same false teaching and attitude as he repeatedly told Christians that the proof of their faith was in the obedience: *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments* (1 John 2:3). And if we need it more clearly explained, John continues: *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; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.* (1 John 2:4-6)

Walking in the light (1 John 1:7) is never just doing our own thing, our own way. God tells us that the very definition of loving God is obedience: *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome* (1 John 5:3).

As God pictures the story of salvation in Revelation, He reminds us that Satan is enraged by faithful obedience: *So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.* (Revelation 12:17) Finally, God reminds us that real faithfulness is obedience: *Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus* (Revelation 14:12).

What we DO is the proof of who we are: *Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.* (1 John 3:7-8a).

When you put it all together the real question is simple: Who do YOU belong to? We can claim until the cows come home that we are God's people, but unless we actually obey Him and live like it, we are deceiving ourselves but not fooling God in the least.

So, how shall we live and act 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*



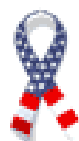
Welcome to our visitors today! We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

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; Cesario Espinosa, Jr. (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); Ismael Lopez; Robinson Goldman (Cindy Turpin's son-in-law); 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 Heavyen & Tatum with cancer; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: Lynn's family with illnesses; 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).

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

Larry West: is home.

Owen Doster: home and recovering from heart surgery.

Ken Price: friend of the Halls with cancer.

Cheryl Mince: knee replacement surgery July 9.

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 an updated sheet with a new address for Albert Bailey.

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

Upcoming Events...

Monthly Singing: **TODAY** at 2:30 [here](#).

Men's Business Meeting: July 8 after evening worship.

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: August 29.

Potluck: October 21 — Group #2 [Toni Pierce's group] set-up, serve & clean-up

Singing Here Today!!!

We host the monthly singing at 2:30 pm.
Refresh yourself with brothers & sisters in Christ. We have plenty of cookies, etc. for afterwards so come praise the Lord in song!

Monday with the Master

Ages 10 through college meet the first Monday of the month for dinner & Bible study.

NEXT MEETING IS ONE WEEK FROM TOMORROW - 6 pm in the fellowship hall

Parents & College Age please see Lou Bagley THIS MORNING to plan our meal!

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

Getting to Know Your Bible

DirecTV channel 377 weeknights @ 7:30 pm

Last Week: 5+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!



George, Chantelle & family will be leaving us soon to be house parents at *NM Christian Children's Home*.

We'd like to send them off with our love & an ice cream supper!

TONIGHT after evening services.

Bring: ice cream or toppings or cookies.

A basket for money & cards will be provided

Remember to be QUIET for our Pew Packers between Bible Study & Worship!

✓ Checkup ✓
How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Class = 55

Sunday Morning Worship = 106

Sunday Evening Worship = 55

Wednesday Evening = 57

Giving

2018 Weekly Budget = \$3,015.00

Contribution Last Week = \$2,368.00

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

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning June 24

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Mike Evans
Song Leader:..... Tom Haney
Prayer:..... Kim Myers
Serve Communion:....Paul Ries, Bill Hall, Curt Odom, John Hoover, Riley Harrison
Sermon: • *Mark 6 - Part 2*..... Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: TBA

Count Contribution: Curt Odom & Max Compton

Sunday Evening June 24

Song Leader:.....George Mora
Prayer:..... TBA
Sermon: • *Parables of Jesus - 6* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion:..... John Hoover
Closing Prayer:Bill Hall

Wednesday Evening June 27

Song Leader:.....TBA
Prayer:..... Curt Odom
Devo:..... Frank Campbell
Closing Prayer:TBA

Anniversaries



July 3: *Michael & Clara Hill*
July 4: *John & Ricki Hill*
July 6: *Greg & Laurel Huffman*
July 12: *Charlie & Shirley Stephenson*
July 28: *Kim & Mary Ann Myers*
July 30: *Tommy & Pat Cates*
July 30: *Dennis & Cheryl Mince*

Birthdays



June 27: *Carolyn Cox – David Polito*
July 3: *KC Deaton-Ochoa – Brett Myers*
July 4: *Jessica Myers*
July 5: *Trevor Didelotte – Rose Lee Wonsor*
July 6: *Jazzmin Wilkerson*
July 8: *Alexis Chavez – Isiah Chavez*
July 10: *Derwin Jackson – Michael Roberts*
July 12: *Beverly Hedrick*