

## Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class ..... 9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship .... 10:00 AM

Sunday Evening Worship .....6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Class .....7:00 PM

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### Elders

Eugene Cardinal (602) 942-6373

Sonny Janeway (623) 583-2726

Chuck Kolinchak (602) 938-9429

### Ministers

James Dale (623) 825-0754

Eugene Cardinal (602) 942-6373

### Deacons

Ron Gallegos (Education)  
(623) 561-5674

Rick Harford (Grounds)  
(602) 995-9332

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### Missionaries

Dino Tzanetos  
Athens, Greece

Josh Austin  
Navajo Reservation  
Keyenta, Arizona

Ron Burman  
Sunset School of Preaching

## Prayer List

- \* Linda Hays
- \* Lilli and Dolly
- \* Casselman family
- \* June Scarbrough
- \* Pauline Houts
- \* Jim & Lenora Green
- \* Gary & Frances Hunt
- \* Marie Huls & daughter Jerri
- \* Barbara Reinhart & sons
- \* Virginia Walker
- \* Bernice Lowder
- \* Rodie Latin
- \* Harold & Lois Ellis
- \* Eugene & Oleta Cardinal
- \* Carole Jowers (Linda's cousin)
- \* McGrew family
- \* Jim & Louise Kistner
- \* Barney & Alza Briersmitt
- \* Ashley (Dora's granddaughter)
- \* Bridget Parker
- \* Christy Roscoe
- \* Ashley (Linda's granddaughter)
- \* Heide Prather-Christy Roscoe's niece
- \* Rochelle Andrews-has Leukemia

## Psalm 119:1-3

*How blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
Who walk in the law of the Lord. How blessed  
are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek  
Him with all their heart. They also do no  
unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.*

# THE GUARDIAN

*"Guard my soul and deliver me; Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in Thee." Ps.25:20*

## Northside, church of Christ

2022 North 32nd Dr., Phoenix Arizona (623) 780-9763

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## Shaped For Glory

During the Great Depression a good man lost his job, exhausted his savings, and forfeited his home. His grief was multiplied by the sudden death of his precious wife. The only things he had left was his faith, and it was weakening.

One day he was combing the neighborhood looking for work. He stopped to watch some men who were doing stonework on a church building. One of those men was skillfully chiseling a triangular piece of rock. Not seeing a spot where it would fit, he asked, "Where are you going to put that?" The man pointed toward the top of the building and said, "See that little opening up there near the spire? That's where it goes. I'm shaping it down here so it will fit up there.

Tears filled the good man's eyes as he walked away. God had spoken to him through those words: "Shaping it sown here so it will fit up there." he found new meaning in his difficult situation.

Some of you may be going through terrible troublesome times. You may be experiencing some heartbreaking sorrow. Or perhaps you are enduring some painful physical illness. Or it may be something else-maybe even too excruciating to talk to anyone about. The blows of the hammer and chisel hurt.

But hold to your faith. Don't let your difficulties get you down. They are only temporary. Glory is coming. It's the harsh blows to the outward man that often brings the greatest strength to the inner man. Keep praying. Keep believing. **The Master has to do some shaping of us down here so we will fit up there.**

**-Borrowed**

**Welcome to the services of the Church!** *If you are visiting with us, we appreciate your presence and invite you to stay a few moments after the service so we can have an opportunity to meet you! As well please feel free to fill out a visitors card so we might have a record of your attendance.*

## REASONING TOGETHER

### “God’s Eternal Blessings”

When a Christian is asked to explain why they love God, most will likely speak of the “blessings” they have because of their relationship with Him.

For those who are not Christians, these blessings are not always easy to understand or see. Many look at their own lives and realize that in some ways it is not much different from the Christians. Comparatively speaking, they have good health, caring family members, friends, some financial prosperity, and they are generally happy people. Why should they love God when they already have all these things?

When we base our love for God solely upon material blessings we fail to see, “He causes His sun to rise on {the} evil and {the} good, and sends rain on {the} righteous and {the} unrighteous,” (Matt. 5:45, also Acts 14:16,17). Although material blessings are reason enough to love God, there are three other reasons that are far better and these can only be shared by those who are Christians. They fall into the realm of the spiritual and no one outside of Christ can lay claim to them. I have already addressed the first two reasons in past articles, but will provide a recap for the sake of continuity.

First, I should love God because He first loved me. Although I chose of my own free will to sin against Him, James 1:13-15, He, through the blood of His Son, provided a way for me to be forgiven and thus be reconciled to Him, Rom 5:8-10.

My sin separated me from God, Isa. 59:1,2. Sin is darkness and God has no part with darkness, “...God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all,” (1John 1:5-10), “...or what fellowship has light with darkness?” (2Cor. 6:14). When I sinned I earned this separation, Rom. 6:23. If reconciliation does not occur I will eventually face an eternal separation, 2Thess. 1:8,9, Matt. 25:31-46. God, “not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance,” (2Pet. 3:9), sent His Son to bear the penalty of my sin, Isa. 53:5. In doing this He satisfied the penalty of my sin, Hebr. 9:22-28. Although He sent His Son for all mankind, only those who have obeyed His will share in this forgiveness, Heb. 5:9; Acts 2:38. Those who are not Christians are not reconciled to God.

Second, I should love God because of the continued spiritual blessings He provides for me. As a child of God I am one who has been baptized into Christ, Rom 6:3. God blesses those in Christ, “with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly {places} in Christ,” (Eph. 1:3). Two of these spiritual blessings are, “help in overcoming temptation” and “a continual cleansing of sin.” As a Christian sinning against God is still a possibility, 1John 2:1-2. Becoming a Christian does not set me free from the temptation of sin, it just sets me free from the penalty. As a Christian God provides a way for me to escape the temptations of sin so that I might endure, 1 Cor. 10:13. If I do give in to the temptation and sin God provides me with a continued cleansing through the blood of Jesus as I repent and make confession of those sins, 1John 1:7-10. In this I need not fear being separated from Him as before. It must be understood that (a) this does not mean I have been given a license to sin, Heb. 10:26, and (b) this does not mean I cannot fall from His grace. The scriptures clearly teach that Christians can, 2Pet. 2:20-22, Gal. 5:4 and have 2Tim. 4:10. What it means is that as long as I strive to do God’s will He blesses me spiritually so that I might remain reconciled to Him being free from sin. Only those who have obeyed God’s will share in these spiritual blessings. They are only for those who are “in Christ,” Rom. 6:3-7.

see “Blessings” opposite page

## Special Announcements

- (1) **Karen Chance** is sick, so don’t be offended if she doesn't hug you.
- (2) **Karen’s** coworkers **Lilli and Dolly** need prayers. They are very sick at this time.
- (3) **Heather Parker** has been down with the flu.
- (4) Bible Bowl studies are taking place on Friday’s-see **James Chance** if you have any questions, also water & pop are being collected for the Bible Bowl
- (5) **Pauline Houts** has an appointment this coming Wednesday.
- (6) The new quarter for Bible classes starts today-please see **Ron Gallegos** about your teaching assignments.
- (7) **Lenora Green** is doing better- **Jim** will be having a bone marrow transplant in Jan.
- (8) **Theron Richason** passed away, please keep the family in your prayers.
- (9) Please keep **Terry Cook** and his family in your prayers as he continues his fight against cancer
- (10) Please keep **Carole Jowers (Linda’s cousin)** in your prayers-her cancer has returned.
- (11) The sermons are now being recorded onto CD’s, if anyone would like a copy, please see **Josh Casselman**

## Calendar

**Sun Eve Speaker:** James Dale

**Communion to shut-ins:** Greg Rice

**January Potlucks:**

## Around Town

**Northside church of Christ:** Bible Bowl, Jan 13-15

**Valley - Wide Praise:** Jan 14, Sun Valley church of Christ, 6:30 pm.

**Southwest Soul Winning Workshop:** Jan 14-16, Mesa church of Christ.

## Blessings

The third and final reason I should love God is because of His eternal blessings. If I obey His will while I sojourn on this earth and if I am found faithful on the day of His appearing, “...there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing,” (2Tim. 4:8). Not only this but Jesus will say to me, “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,” (Matt. 25:34). I will dwell eternally in a place of joy and peace. A place which my finite mind cannot truly comprehend. A place that has to be believed to be seen, Rev. 21:4-7. Only those who are Christians can share in this eternal spiritual blessing and it is because of these spiritual blessings that God is deserving of my love.

**James Dale**