

# Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

## Sermon for the Lord's Day "A Little While Longer"



Worship today will be via Zoom @ 9:00am  
*Write and let us know if you would like an invitation.*

*Our Lord's Day Plan...*

- Opening Prayer - Jordan
- Hymn- Kerry
- Lord's Supper - Paul
- Morning Lesson - Paul
- Hymn - Kerry
- Closing Prayer - Nito

*Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*  
*Philippians 4:9*

### We are praying for you!

Rosemarie Johnson, Nito Gomez, Evelyn Cruz, David Smith, Larry Smith, Craig Smith, all our elderly members, Norma, Beverly, Charles, Judy, and Paul  
Pray for our great **United States of America** and her success and well-being.

### The wisdom of Solomon...

*...8 Showing honor to a fool is as bad as tying a rock in a sling.*  
Proverbs 26:8 (ERV)

### "I'M NOT THE MAN I USED TO BE"

Raymond Elliott

There is a religious song that is often sung by different quartets, groups and individuals, emphasizing how that one's life has been changed, "by Calvary", noting the death of Jesus Christ who died on the cross for the sins of the world. Regardless how a person has lived previously, when a person believes in Jesus Christ as being the Son of God, is penitent of sins and obeys the gospel of Christ, his/her sins are forgiven and forgotten (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Hebrews 8:12).

Mankind is not so merciful and forgiving. Recently, I read that "Boeing's communications chief, who was forced to resign because of an article he wrote criticizing women in combat in 1987 - more than 30 years ago - when he was a Navy fighter pilot." The gentleman explained he no longer held the same views about women serving in the armed services as he did when he was a young man. Nevertheless, he was forced to resign his position with the company. This is a prime example as to the extremes we are now witnessing in our nation.

What if God treated mankind in like fashion as those responsible for pressuring this person to resign from his work with this company? Consider the following men who said or did something that was not in harmony with the will of God, the Lord forgave them and used them in His kingdom.

Abraham, the 'father of the faithful', was not perfect. In two incidents he intended to deceive rulers in order to protect his life. When Abram "went to Egypt", because of the beauty of Sarai, his wife, he said to her, "Please say you are my sister that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you." Thus Pharaoh and others believed that Sarai was only a sister to Abram and not his wife (Genesis 12:10-20). While this statement was partially true, it was not the whole truth. Then there was the time when Abraham and Sarah went to Gerar. While there, he told others, "She is my sister". King Abimelech took Sarah. God intervened and the king did not touch her. (Genesis 20). David, after much time and many obstacles, became King of Israel. God richly blessed him abundantly with power and material things. Yet, he lusted after a woman, committed adultery with her, and had her husband killed (2 Samuel 11) Peter denied his Lord three times (Matthew 26:69-75). The apostle Paul, prior to his conversion, persecuted the church of the Lord (Acts 9). He referred to himself as being the "chief" of sinners (1 Timothy 1:12:-15)

Abraham matured in his faith in God and his belief "was accounted to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3,5). King David was truly penitent of his sins (Psalm 32; 51). The apostle Peter was truly sorry for his denial of Jesus Christ (Matthew (Matthew 26:75). Saul (Paul) believed in Jesus, repented and was baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 9:9-11; Acts 22:16).

These individuals were not men they used to be. He did not hold their past mistakes, faults and sins against them. Have we not all thought, said or written something that displeased God and sought His forgiveness? We should be thankful for the infinite mercy of our Heavenly Father. God has given His children this blessed assurance: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful

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and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12). “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins” (Isaiah 43:25).

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I cannot change others  
But I can change me  
I must learn to focus  
Being the best I can be

When I change my outlook  
And improve through and through  
Amazingly I find  
That others get better too

Edd Sterchi

.....

**Jesus wants all of His followers to have a pure heart.**

In 1877, Fannie C. Davison wrote these lyrics for a hymn that is now well known and loved:

**Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; may I devote my life wholly to Thee;  
Watch Thou my wayward feet, guide me with counsel sweet;**

**Purer in heart, help me to be.**

**Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; teach me to do Thy will most lovingly;  
Be Thou my Friend and Guide, let me with Thee abide;**

**Purer in heart, help me to be.**

**Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; that I Thy holy face one day may see;  
Keep me from secret sin, reign Thou my soul within;**

**Purer in heart; help me to be. Amen.**

Jesus said in Matthew 5:8 - “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” The idea here is that Christ wants us to have a clean or pure mind. This notion is stressed elsewhere in the New Testament - “Love one another fervently with a pure heart” (I Pet. 1:22). Generally, we think of purity as cleanness. Thus, we need to have an innocent or chaste mindset. This is not easy in the corrupt world in which we live.

July 26, 2020



Looking west from Fremont Peak

**Meeting Days and Times**

**Sunday ..... 9:00 am**

**Zoom Times...**

**Wednesday ..... Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm**

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