

# Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

## Sermon for the Lord's Day "Are We to Live Peaceably"



### The Heart of the Law Aaron Cozort

Aaron Cozort God has always expected His people to care for one another. In the New Testament, this is evident by the way the early Christians cared for one another's needs. The closing verses of Acts 2 present a picture of an assembly of people sharing as anyone had need. They didn't hoard their possessions or look out only for their interests. We read, "Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need." This pervasive attitude among Christians to care for other Christians shouldn't surprise us. We know Christ promised that our loving Father in Heaven would also hear our prayers and care for our needs. Often that care comes through the hands of His obedient servants.

Even in the Old Testament, the Law set forth standards of caring for those who were in need. In Deuteronomy 15, Moses taught the children of Israel to lend to their brothers and sisters (Israelites) who were in need. Also, they were to loan this money at no interest. Furthermore, every seventh (or sabbath) year, all debts among Israelites were to be canceled. In this way, God provided for the poor through the blessings of the rich.

Because of this law about a loan getting canceled, God also gave this command:

Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, "The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand," and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you. You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. (Deuteronomy 15:9-10)

God doesn't want servants who only serve Him when it is in their own interest, nor even when it doesn't "hurt too much" to do so. Instead, God wants people who genuinely believe they can never out-give God. So, God's people rejoice when they can give and expect nothing in return.

**Galatians 6:10**  
As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

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

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*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.  
2 Timothy 4:2*

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***We are praying for you!***

Nito Gomez, Evelyn Cruz, Rosemarie Johnson, David Smith, Larry Smith, Craig Smith, all our elderly members, Norma, Beverly, Charles, Judy, and Paul  
Pray for overcoming the Corona19 virus and our current civil unrest.

**The wisdom of Solomon...**

*Like a dog that returns to its vomit, a fool does the same foolish things again and again.  
Proverbs 26:11 (ERV))*

August 2, 2020

**Philippians 2:1-5**

*(1) Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, (2) fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. (3) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. (4) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (5) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*

The Philippian congregation was generally a wonderful group of people. Many different commentaries state that of all the groups that Paul wrote to, Phillipi was probably the best of them all. However, Paul was writing to these people with some measure of sadness because two ladies were feuding, and it was inexorably dividing the group into rival camps. In this section, the apostle is spelling out our Christian responsibility.

Notice that nowhere in the entire epistle to the Phillipians does Paul tell them, “Don’t come to church.” He did not say, “Split away by yourself.” That is what is happening in the greater church. Paul did not say, “Just go sit in your living room.” That is not an option with God. He tells us here that we have to look to and seek higher things. He says to let our conduct be worthy of the gospel that we say that we believe.

How far did Jesus Christ go to make peace? To the death! He did not allow the hostility of the world against Him to justify hostility against those who were mistreating Him.

We should not be misled by the word “if” in verse 1. Paul is not stating a “maybe.” He is stating an absolute fact. That word “if” is better understood as “since”: “Since there are these things in you because of God’s Spirit, sacrifice yourself. Make my joy complete and use them.” What are we to use? Love, fellowship of the spirit, bowels and mercies. “Fulfil you my joy, that you be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

Because of God’s calling, because He granted us repentance and gave us His Spirit, we have already been enabled by His Spirit to use these things to make peace, to be of one accord, to be of one mind. “The mark of the beast” can be overcome by God’s Spirit in us, but we must sacrifice ourselves to use it. It is already there. Thus, Paul is saying, “Use God’s love in you, and be of one mind. Quit fighting with each other to gain the upper hand. Consider the other person better than you, and serve him by looking out for his interest.”

When he says, “Let this mind be in you,” what he literally says in the Greek is, “Keep thinking like this.” How? As Jesus Christ has already shown us. He is saying, “Don’t let your mind be drawn toward what you consider to be the cause of the offense.” Or, “Don’t dwell upon those things.”

— John W. Ritenbaugh



*The only thing missing is you!*

**Meeting Days and Times**

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

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

**Zoom Times...**

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