

# Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

## Sermon for the Lord's Day "Contrasts: Old/New"



Our Lord's Day  
Plan...

Worship today will be via Zoom @ 9:00am

Write and let us know if you would like an invitation.

Bible Class - Kerry

Hymn- Kerry

Opening Prayer - Nito

Hymn- Kerry

Lord's Supper - Jordan

Morning Lesson - Paul

Hymn - Kerry

Closing Prayer -Paul

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*And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.*

*But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.*

*Luke 5:37-38*

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

Robert Barry, Dave Bang, Bobby Glover, Rosemarie Johnson,, Loyd Barry, Sweeti Parichha, Path Star. and all our elderly members, Norma, Beverly, Charles, Judy, and Paul, as well as our friends and neighbors who are in the world without Christ..

Father, please bless all the preachers and teachers who speak the truth in love and truth, in Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

**The wisdom of Solomon...**

*He who keeps instruction is in the way of life,  
But he who refuses correction goes astray.*

## Our Spiritual Walk

Jay Jones

When I think of a person who believes or says all one needs to do in order to go to Heaven is to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, his or her prayer might sound something like this:

My heavenly Father, I am so thankful that you sent your Son from Heaven. He came here and lived an obedient life as an example for me, suffered and died a horrible death, and shed His blood for me that I can have forgiveness of my sins. Father, I am so thankful for this, and to show you just how thankful and appreciative I am, here is what I plan to do for the remainder of my physical life. I plan to do nothing. Father, I have read in your Word about the parables of the talents and the sower in Matthew 13 and 25, but my preacher told me that I don't need to do anything but to believe. So, that's what I plan to do. I know I will hear you say at judgment, "Enter in my good, faithful, productive servant."

The apostle Paul in writing to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 15:58 penned, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." When we take spiritual inventory, we could ask ourselves this question, "Am I a productive worker in the kingdom or am I like the one talent man, wicked and lazy?"

Matthew 7:19 records, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." Romans 2:6 reads, "Who will render to each according to his deeds." Galatians 6:7 says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." Two verses later reads, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not loose heart."

Working in God's kingdom is not a dread for a real Christian. It is one's expression of love and appreciation to God for all He has done for him or her. "Till Jesus comes, I'll sing His praise and then to glory go and reign with Him through endless days because He loved me so." There is a song we sing titled, "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes." It has a line in it that says, "We'll work till Jesus comes and we'll be gathered home." May God help us to be strong, productive servants in our Lord's kingdom. "Every branch in Me [Jesus Christ] that does not bear fruit He takes away..." (John 15:2).

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*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

1 John 1:7

**Revelation 20:12-13**

*(12) And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. (13) The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

**Romans 14:11-12**

*(11) For it is written:*

*“As I live, says the LORD,*

*Every knee shall bow to Me,*

*And every tongue shall confess to God.” (12) So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Since all are to be judged according to their works, what if one claiming to be Christian has no works to show when God clearly expects them? James 2:19-20 clinches the argument: “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”

This entire issue is actually quite simple. No amount of works can justify us before God. Justification by faith in Christ’s atoning blood makes one legally free to access God and to begin a relationship with Him. However, from that point on, works are absolutely required for sanctification unto holiness - to the extent that, not only is one’s reward contingent upon them, but also salvation itself. Will God reward one who can show no works at all, or provide salvation to one whose faith is so weak it produces bad works? Such a person would be totally out of place, unfit for living eternally in the Kingdom of God.

Ephesians 2:8-10 makes this reality even stronger. Even though we are saved by grace through faith, the very reason we are created is for good works that God Himself prepared beforehand for us to walk in. The gospel of the Kingdom of God provides the reasons for which works are required - the major one being to prepare us for living in God’s Kingdom.

God intended Israel’s forty-year journey through the wilderness to prepare them for living in the Promised Land. However, even though Israel had the gospel preached to them and had godly leadership provided by the likes of Moses, Aaron, and Joshua, in their stiff-necked unbelief they refused to submit in obedience to God’s commands. They thus failed to receive the necessary preparation for using the Promised Land rightly, becoming an eternal example of why works of preparation are needed (Hebrews 4:1-2).

Can we learn a lesson from their examples? When God brings us out of spiritual Egypt, He is not done with us yet. In fact, a great deal of spiritual creating within us remains to be accomplished before we will be fit to live and occupy a working position in God’s Kingdom. We are being created in Christ Jesus, created in His image. Can we honestly say we are already in His image when we are merely legally cleared of sin? Absolutely not! As great as this is, it is not the end of God’s creative process. God is not merely “saving” us. His purpose is far greater than that.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**October 4, 2020**



**Meeting Days and Times**

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

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

*Zoom Times...*

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