

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day "Who Were His Family?"



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

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And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
Mark 1:11

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We are praying for you!

Please pray for all the members of the congregation at Alisal and the congregations throughout the central coast area. May we all be forgiving and united in our efforts to spread the message of God's love to the world around us.

Praise God and keep Him first in your life!

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God's instruction is given so that we are well-supplied with knowledge, understanding, inspiration, and motivation to live actually and practically by faith. Yielding to God's sovereignty is not merely the rationale for divine government. Doctrine means "teaching," and it is by means of these teachings that the great realities of our God and Savior are revealed to us. We are spiritually nourished by doctrine, and as we apply it, growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ occurs.

A couple of easily understood scriptures will help us understand how God's Word and living by faith work together to cause growth. Romans 1:16-17 informs us:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Add to this Jesus' words in John 6:63: "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

Jesus is characterized as the living Word of God. At the most basic level, like any book, the Bible is simply a collection of words. However, its words are specifically instructions from our Creator God who is Spirit and inhabits eternity. Because that God lives and oversees our lives, the Bible's words are full of dynamic powers, if we believe them and use them. They will guide us to become like the eternal, spiritual God.

It is impossible to be formed into the image of Jesus Christ without His Word in us because we must voluntarily cooperate with God in His purpose in order for Him to do the forming. The forming must be accompanied by our knowing and understanding His will. We must never forget that Jesus says that truth sets free (John 8:32). God's truths set us free—free from ignorance of God and His purpose; free from the power of evil; free from the wiles of Satan; free from human nature.

The doctrine of God's sovereignty is foundational to Christian life because, as we move through a life lived by faith, we must firmly, even absolutely, know where we stand in relation to Him and His purpose, or our human nature will rise up and resist conforming to His will. We must know that He is close, that He is love, that He is wisdom, and that He has power over every situation in our lives. God says through Moses in Deuteronomy 8:3:

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

Notice how God's supplying of manna—symbolic of food and therefore implying eating—shows a spiritual need met in the wilderness. God's Word is just as essential to spiritual life as food is to physical life. Just as one must discipline himself to provide and eat

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Ineffective Sermons

By Al Behel

“...the message which they heard did not benefit them, because it did not meet with faith in the hearers” (Hebrews 4:2)

I read a stimulating article by Joe Barnett entitled “Lousy Sermons.” Every preacher has experienced the varied reactions of people to sermons they preach. The same sermon might be met with comments like, “I really needed that message”, or “I was moved by that sermon to try harder to please God”, to “that did nothing for me”, or “I didn’t get anything out of it.” Still others are overtly critical of the delivery or the message itself or the messenger.

Ministers are usually their own hardest critics. “Did I say what I needed to say?” “That wasn’t very effective,” or, “I should have chosen something different to talk about today.” Sometimes the problem lies with the preacher. Maybe he really didn’t know much about the topic, or, perhaps he is a dedicated man who didn’t have the equipment for the job.

But, there may be another possibility—one that has nothing to do with the message itself or the one delivering it. The problem can be with the hearer. Hebrews 4:2 tells of times the message of God failed in its purpose or intent because “it was not met with faith in the hearers.” A good sermon must involve the speaker and the hearer. The presentation and the reception are equally important.

The message needs to be clear, truthful, and delivered with the right attitude on the part of the speaker.

The reception of the message can depend on the condition of heart and mind, and the “faith” of the hearer. Unless there is a willingness to believe and accept truth the words spoken are ineffective.

The message of the cross will be lost when it is not met with faith. The result will be that it “did not benefit them” (Hebrews 4:2).

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physical food, so must one exercise discipline to seek, provide, and ingest spiritual food. If one will not do this, just as physical health will decline without adequate food, an inadequate spiritual diet will lead to spiritual weakness and disease.

God provides the Bible to promote righteous living and to motivate us to subjugate our carnal natures to His will. A major effect of seeking God and grasping His sovereignty, then, is that it promotes humility by means of the admiration and appreciation gained from comparing our puny lives and characters to His.

— John W. Ritenbaug

November 8, 2020



*The beautiful U.S./British
Virgin Islands in the
Eastern Caribbean*

Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

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

Zoom Times...

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