

# Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

## Sermon for the Lord's Day

### "The Christian and Marriage" #3



*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** - Paul

**Hymn**- Kerry

**Lord's Supper** -Kerry

**Morning Lesson** - Paul

**Hymn** - Kerry

**Closing Prayer** -Jordan

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*I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;*

*1 Corinthians 1:4-5*

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

**Don Blackwell** - for his good health and work at the Gospel Broadcasting Network

**Raymond Elliott** - for his work for the Lord

**Rosemarie Johnson** - for her good health

**Norma Decker** - for her well being, comfort and good health

**Charles Barry** - for relief from his bodily pain

**The Alisal congregation** - for spiritual strength and growth during this difficult time

Praise God and keep Him first in your life!

## Searching for God

Gary C. Hampton

Researchers report they have found what may be liquid on Mars, according to an article on the website for Popular Science. I have rarely read an article filled with so many might's and maybes. It is obvious they are desperate to find the possibility of life on another planet.

Their time could be much better spent looking for God and His will for their lives. These well-educated men seem to be following the path of the Gentiles' in their downward spiral into the depths of sin.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Romans 1:18-21)

Scientists and researchers who work so hard to find evidence of life on another planet overlook the truth right before their eyes — God exists! The Psalmist sang, "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork" (19:1). "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God" (Hebrews 3:4). God created the universe with such precision that men can calculate the exact day, hour and minute of the next lunar or solar eclipse. Halley's Comet has an orbital path that brings it within view of the earth every seventy-five years, with the next appearance expected in 2061.

It is no wonder that the singer of Israel wrote, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God" (Psalm 14:1-2). May all open their eyes to the design all around us and seek the will of the Designer.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*  
**Colossians 3:16**

**Romans 13:1-7**

*(1) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. (2) Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. (3) For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. (4) For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. (5) Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. (6) For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. (7) Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.*

The subject of government in the Bible is indeed extensive. As we begin, notice that Paul writes that "there is no authority except from God" (verse 1). Though this statement appears in relation to civil authority, God's oversight is broad and deep. Even Satan's authority, as god and ruler of this world (II Corinthians 4:4; John 14:30), is assigned by God. Jesus tells Pilate in John 19:11, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above." Those in the church with a position of authority also receive it from God (I Corinthians 12:18, 28). These are important statements on God's overall sovereignty.

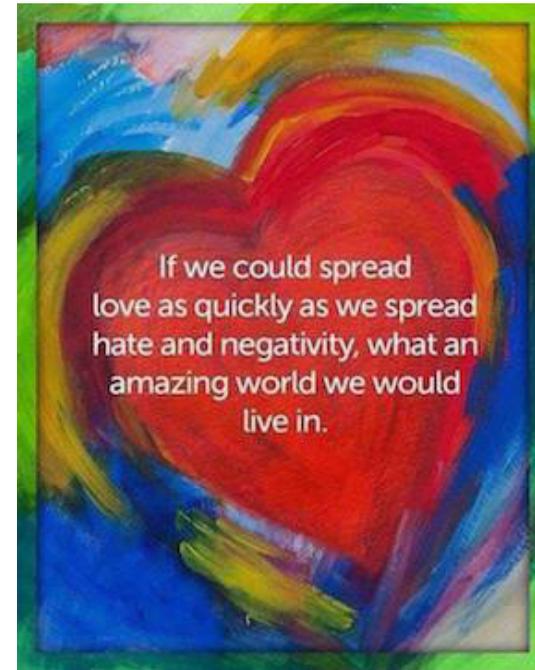
In verse 2, Paul mentions "the ordinance of God." God's ordinance states His will, and He clearly establishes civil government. Therefore, we are responsible for obeying civil authority also, for in doing so we are obeying God. These verses do not imply that we must always obey civil government. Other verses show that we must obey it as long as the civil authority does not contradict God's laws. In verses 3-4, Paul comes close to stating that the civil authority somewhat parallels the Old Testament "avenger of blood."

In verses 5-7, God extends our responsibilities to submit to government as a means to keep our consciences clear, as well as to pay taxes, not only so the state can afford to employ these civil servants of God, but also to submit to community customs regarding them and even to give them honor.

These seven verses show three general reasons why humans must be governed. First, law-abiding citizens must be protected. Paul's life was saved in Acts 21:30-32 when Roman soldiers stepped in to save him from the murderous intent of angry Jews. Second, evildoers must be restrained. Third, the general welfare is promoted by helping to establish peace. In I Timothy 2:1-3, Paul commands us to pray that this function is carried out.

— *John W. Ritenbaugh*

**November 22, 2020**



**Meeting Days and Times**

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

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

**Zoom Times...**

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