

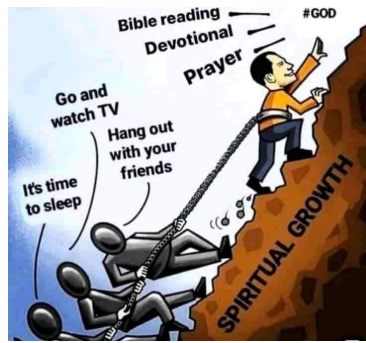
Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day "The Lord's Supper"



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

Our Lord's Day Plan...

be sober be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walk about seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8

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We are praying for you!

- Rosemarie Johnson** - for her good health
- Norma Decker** - for her well being, comfort and good health
- The Jackson Family** - for the loss of a great Christian - Wayne Jackson
- The Alisal congregation** - for spiritual strength and growth during this difficult time

Praise God and keep Him first in your life!

Just As I Am T. Pierce Brown

I do not know how many hundreds of times we have sung "Just As I Am" as an invitation song. Close to the same idea is another song, "Only come as you are and believe on His name. Jesus will give you rest." When I heard Dan Rather's program about the Christian right with the homosexual church pastor saying that God loves all of us and takes us just as we are, without any special mention of what is involved in that, except that he said that God has special love for homosexuals, I decided to enlarge on the subject of God taking us just as we are from a biblical perspective.

It never entered my mind, nor the minds of most Christians, that anyone would ever teach or preach in such a fashion that when we sing, "Christ receiveth sinful men," that it is suggested that Christ receiveth sinful men who continue in sin. Nor would most of us ever have dreamed of anyone who would suggest that God taking a person as he is implies or suggests that because God takes him as a sinner, He leaves him that way.

That was almost the idea that caused Paul to apparently recoil in horror as he said, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid!" If we ever use the expression, "God takes a person as he is," we should be careful that we explain (though most of us can scarcely conceive that we would ever need to explain) that "as he is" means that he is a penitent believer who is willing to now let Christ be the Lord of his life. He does not have to do righteous deeds and prove himself to have been reformed and strong enough to resist all temptations of the Devil, but he does have to repent of his sins, whether they include homosexual practices, adulterous ones or any other type of sin.

There are those who are so concerned about the expression, "Only come as you are and believe on his name. Jesus will give you rest," that they have revised the song to say, "Obey Jesus your Lord, heed his every command." We could probably find as much fault with misunderstandings about that as we can with the way the song was originally written. When I sing, "Only come as you are and believe on his name," it never enters my mind that anyone would assume that any drunken wretch or adulterous rascal could come, continuing to be as he or she is, and that at the point of faith such a one would be saved. "Believe on his name" has always with me included trusting in and surrendering to Christ's authority, which involves obeying His commands. However, the way some are now teaching (and sadly enough they are not all in a homosexual church), one may need to be more careful in calling attention to phrases that may be wrongly applied.

It is very similar to what may occur to us as we think of singing in a Christmas carol, "Don we now our gay apparel." Some of us may now try to edit that song in some fashion, but it is hoped that most of us will be able to sing it without the necessity of some long-winded explanation.

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nation or article. Just be careful!

[Editor's Note: Some Christians try too hard and end up making rules that God did not make, while other Christians don't try hard enough and minimize rules God did make. It is enough that we abide in the doctrine of Christ. The world, though, is unschooled – often willfully so – in the Word of God and draws erroneous conclusions to satisfy sinful appetites. The church and Christians who comprise it ought to be less reactive and more responsive with the Gospel to the speech and the actions of an ungodly world. ~

Louis Rushmore, Editor]

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Outbursts of Wrath

David R. Kenney

I am not much of a fan of professional sports, but a news story relating to tennis caught my attention. Novak Djokovic was going for his 18th Grand Slam. Reports are that he became frustrated and hit the tennis ball to the back wall, which was not unusual. However, this time the tennis ball hit a line judge and bruised her throat. He immediately went to the line judge to apologize and wait with her for the medical staff to examine her. He was eliminated from the U.S. Open for 2020 and will face serious fines. From my vantage point, it did not appear to have been done with wrath but was an accident. To the officials' credit, the penalty was enforced regardless of his status or stakes. One of the commentators, who was John McEnroe, said, "The pressure just got to him. I think a lot's been going on off the court; it's obviously affected him. And now, whether he likes it or not, he's going to be the bad guy the rest of his career. It'll be interesting how he handles it." Strong words from a notoriously misbehaving former player who over his career was fined over \$69,000. Perhaps McEnroe wishes for Djokovic to take his place in the "bad guy" category, but that is a decision that will be left to Djokovic as he reflects on his conduct and attitude. Whether one thinks Djokovic had an outburst of wrath or not, certainly his personal and professional reputations have taken blows.

The ever-relevant Proverbs certainly warn about losing one's temper. "He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly" (Proverbs 14:29 NKJV). See also Proverbs 12:16; 15:1, 18; 27:3. Paul instructed Titus on the qualifications for an elder including "not quick tempered" (Titus 1:7), and to Timothy he wrote, "not quarrelsome" (1 Timothy 3:3). Elders must be men of integrity, and a man who cannot control his temper will do serious damage to his and the church's reputation. Paul warned the Christians at Corinth, "For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults" (2 Corinthians 12:20).

The same word in the Bible translated "jealous" is also translated "zealous." The context determines whether this word is positive or negative. Likewise, the context of our actions may determine if an act is positive or negative regardless of the motivations for our actions. Righteous anger and unrighteous anger are not the same thing, but sometimes the temporal consequences are. Preachers need to be careful about displaying anger and outbursts of wrath. One may be right, but one may still face the same temporal consequences regardless. Guard against outbursts of wrath!

December 6, 2020



Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life...

Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

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

Zoom Times...

church of Christ at Alisal

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Paul McCollum, preacher

pulpitpaul@razzolink.com

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