

# Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

## Sermon for the Lord's Day

### "Obedience of Faith"



Worship today will be via Zoom @ 9:00am

*Write and let ys know if you  
would like an invitation.*

**Bible Class** - Nito

**Hymn**- Kerry

**Opening Prayer** -Jordan

**Hymn**- Kerry

**Lord's Supper** - Kerry

**Morning Lesson** - Paul

**Hymn** - Kerry

**Closing Prayer** -Paul

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*The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*

*Ecclesiastes 1:9*

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**We are praying for you!**

Please pray for **Lisa McCollum** (Matthew's wife) for negative cancer results from her tyroid which was sergically last week.

**I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;**

1 Timothy 2:1

Praise God and keepHim first in your life!

## God is Not Mocked

Robert Johnson

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life" (Galatians 6:7-8). The congregations in Galatia were facing challenges from false teachers, advocating one must observe certain elements of the Law of Moses in addition to life in Christ. Paul didn't want them deceived into thinking such error was the will of God. People are often deceived into thinking something is right that is wrong (Hebrews 3:13), but God is never deceived, neither about truth nor our motives. God is not mocked, which literally means "to turn up one's nose in scorn and hence to mock, deride." To turn away from God, in heart or deeds, doesn't fool God. It makes a mockery of Truth and of the life we have been called to live. Our lives are to be worthy of the calling of the Gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:27). God knows the difference between a life lived for Him and a life lived for self.

Really, these are the only two choices we can make in how we live. We're either seeking ourselves or God; we're either living by sin or by God's good will (Romans 6:16). Satan would deceive us into thinking we can live for self but please God in doing so. It becomes easy to rationalize how that we want things for ourselves is what God wants for us. On the other hand, there is true joy, peace, love, grace, mercy and life by submission to God's will and following in the footsteps of Jesus. "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:1-2). God knows if our lives reflect His image or not, if we're truly striving to be more like Him or simply a reflection of the world around us, hoping, expecting God to not notice the difference and accept it as pleasing to Him.

We can know whether we're sowing to the flesh or to the Spirit. We must be willing to examine ourselves and our approach to life. Do we have time for anything and everything we want to do but no time for God? Do we look for opportunities to worship and serve God or excuses to avoid it? Do we begrudge the time offered in such but not the time spent pursuing our heart's desires? Where do our finances go? Plenty for self, little for the work of the Lord? A lot of time for television and other diversions but no time for prayer, Bible study or fellowship? Do we seek the least amount possible to give to God in life while being lavish on ourselves? Is our philosophy of life one that spends most resources for the here and now but little to none for eternity? We can know the answers to these questions, but perhaps the answers keep us from asking them of ourselves. Are we sowing to the flesh, or the Spirit?

It's a matter of attitude or of the motives of one's heart that turns us to the flesh or to the Spirit. The psalmist spoke of those who claimed God doesn't see or know, as if they could deceive God (Psalm 94:7), but we know this isn't true; He does see and know. The fact that God doesn't immediately judge us is a sign of His love, not His ignorance. We are the ones who are deceived! Where is there an abundant life, all spiritual blessings, every good and perfect gift, all

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### Romans 10:17

*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Faith does not “come” through natural genetic processes. Faith truly has a vital link with blood—the blood of Christ, “whom God set forth to be a propitiation by His blood, through faith” (Romans 3:25). But an individual does not inherit faith through a natural bloodline; God did not see fit to encode faith in human DNA, so that it could be passed to offspring.

Christ’s disciples, in asking Him to “increase our faith” (Luke 17:5), exhibit their understanding that God, not genetics, is the ultimate source of faith. Because “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34; see Romans 2:11), He has no proclivity to limit His giving and increasing of faith to a particular racial stock. For that reason, faith as a characteristic does not “belong” to a particular race as, say, a set of facial features is peculiar to a given race.

In His time, then, God made faith available to the Gentiles and with it, spiritual salvation, which has its taproot in faith:

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, . . . [so] that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13-14).

Peter says as much to the church gathered in Jerusalem. In Acts 11:17-18, he connects “the gift” given to the Gentiles with belief—faith—in Christ:

If therefore God gave them [Gentiles] the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?” When they heard these things they became silent: and they glorified God, saying, “Then has God also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

God’s Israel crosses natural racial or ethnic distinctions; the faithful of any race make up the Israel of God. These are the faithful who receive “the blessing of Abraham” (Galatians 3:14).

— Charles Whitaker

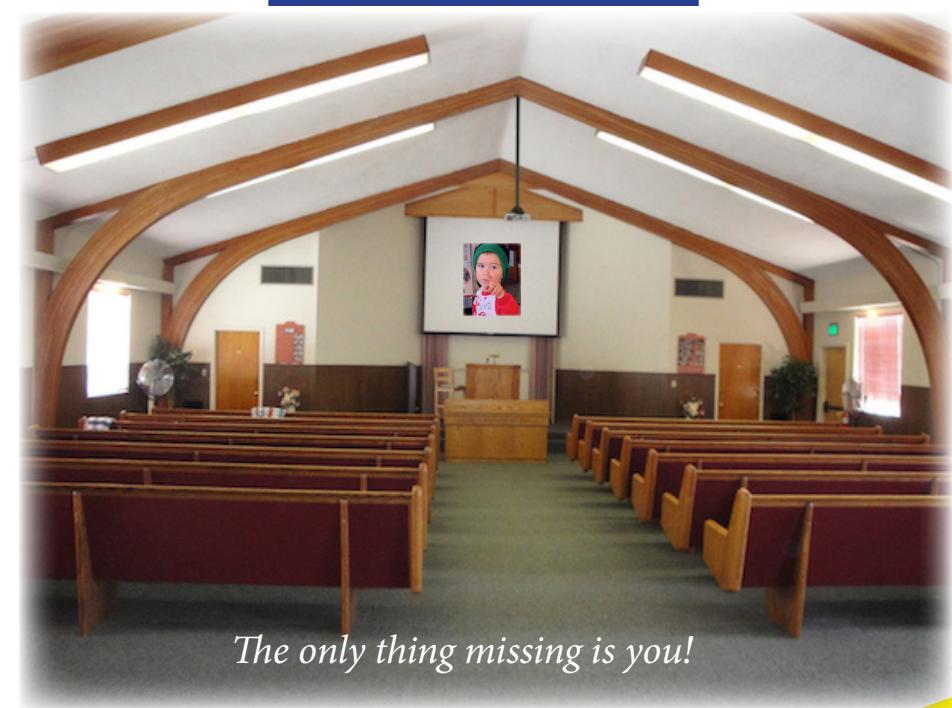
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things that pertain to life and godliness, and the hope of eternity? In Christ! Christ is to be what every aspect of life is all about (Colossians 3:4). As you go through your week, does He enter your thoughts, your motives, your deeds and your life? Jesus Christ gave His all for us, yet we can live in such a way that we mock all of that, pretending He doesn’t know, or worse, that He doesn’t care. Is He pleased with how you live, or does it break His heart?

God is not mocked, because in judgment, it will be evident and undeniable what our true motives were, what kind of life we really lived, either of corruption or for eternal life. The term corruption in Galatians 6:8 means, “spoiling, destruction, ruin, decay, generally a fraying or wasting away.” Satan is mocking us when we live for the flesh, which is subject to decay and destruction. Life focused on the flesh is wasting away to eternal destruction, but life in the Spirit is being renewed for eternal life. Where is your life lived? “The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever” (1 John 2:17).

January 10, 2021



*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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