

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day

“The Church at Sardis” (4)



Cast Not Your Confidence Away

Mark McWhorter

Many soldiers carried shields in ancient times. The shield was very important. It helped protect the soldier from enemy swords and javelins.

In some ancient societies, the shield was a symbol of honor. A soldier was not supposed to drop his shield. He was not supposed to return from a battle without his shield. Lacedomia [ancient city near Sparta] was one of these societies. A Lacedonian mother gave her oldest son the shield of his father. She said these words when she gave it to him: “This shield thy father preserved, do thou preserve it also or perish. Bring it back or be brought back on it.”

Greeks who lost their shield were put to death. According to them, only cowardly soldiers threw away their shields and ran from the battle.

This symbolism is used in Hebrews 10:35. “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.” The word for “confidence” in the Greek is a word meaning “frankness and boldness of speech.” This boldness of speech acts as a shield. It is a boldness in speaking about Christ. The Christian should never be ashamed to speak about Christ. The Christian should always be ready to speak in defense of the Christian faith (1 Peter 3:15).

The confidence or boldness of speech has a great reward. If the Christian is not ashamed of Jesus, Jesus is not ashamed of the Christian (Matthew 10:32-33).

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“God doesn’t call people who are qualified. He calls people who are willing, and then He qualifies them.” —

Richard Parker

Worship today will be via Zoom @ 9:00am

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

Bible Class -Paul

Hymn- Kerry

Opening Prayer -Jordan

Hymn- Kerry

Lord’s Supper Nito

Morning Lesson -Paul

Hymn - Kerry

Closing Prayer Kerry

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These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

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We are praying for you!

Rosemarie Johnson - for better health and a joyfull heart.

Norma Decker - for God’s blessing for her health and well being.

Global Broadcasting Network - for bringing God’s Word to the people.

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Inc. - for continued help for those in need.

Raymond Elliott - for birthday wishes and healing from his hip and heart operation.

We pray for all people to seek God and obey his commandments.

Our Lord’s Day Plan...

Seek the Old Paths

Dean Kelly

Jeremiah 6:16 reads, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.’ But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’” It is amazing how human beings always want new and improved. That is a common mantra in advertising. Sometimes new and improved is a good thing. Look how far cell phones have come from the old bag phone, to the huge handheld ones, to the slim, basically computer ones that we have now. The sad thing is, however, that humans tend to want to look for new and improved when it comes to the Word and Will of God.

Instead of seeking the old paths, they want to blaze a new path that they sometimes want to call “progressive.” Actually, most of the time these “progressive” ideas, these “re-examinations” and new thoughts about what they like to call “Church-of-Christ doctrine” are simply rehashes of old errors already taught by people through the centuries. Almost every time some brother makes a declaration of what he has “discovered,” you can go back and find where that “discovery” has been hashed and re-hashed in times gone by. They simply regurgitate the same false ideas that were already taught by false teachers way before their time. They remind me of the Gnostics of the first century in that they claim how much more knowledge they have than all the faithful Gospel preachers who preceded them. (Gnostic comes from the Greek term meaning “to know”; the Gnostics claimed special knowledge no one else has.) These folks want to sound smart and to say to all, “I know better than you do!”

Most of the time these so-called great thinkers spend a great deal of time ridiculing or just plain bashing the church in which they grew up and the preachers they have heard, calling them unloving, ignorant of grace, etc. Apparently, one must tear down the old paths to lead people into new ones.

Let’s teach the whole counsel of God in love but with conviction and without compromise. I don’t have any special knowledge; I just want to walk in God’s paths – in the old paths – which adhere to His Word and seek His authority for what we do religiously.

May 23, 2021



Zoom Times...

Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

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

church of Christ at Alisal

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