

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

*Sermon for the Lord's Day*

**"Hope"**



**Welcome Brothers and Sisters!**

We are blessed to have **Kerry Johnson** with us to present the **Lesson**. **Charles Barry** to lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** to lead us in **Song**... may God bless their efforts!

**~ Happy Lord's Day ~**

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

*1 Peter 3:15*

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

**Annette Barry** - for God's blessing on her love and faithfulness to Hqim and for all she does for her family.

**Norma Decker** - for good health and joy in the Lord.

**Rose marie Johnson** - foer improved health and strong mental fortitude.

**Charles Barry** - for relief and healing from his neck, back and hand pain. Charles will be undergoing more tests soon.

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

**Equal Before God**

Kerry Duke

"There is no partiality with God" (Rom. 2:11).

"All men are created equal" (Declaration of Independence).

People are different and life is not fair. No government program can change this. These may be cold hard facts but they are the truth. God did not make everyone the same. He could have made us all with the same color of eyes and hair. He could have made us all with the same height and weight. But each one of us is unique. Everything from our fingerprints to the sound of our voice makes us special.

Life is full of advantages and disadvantages. No one is everything he would like to be. Some are stronger than others. Some are smarter. Some are more attractive. Some have better health and live longer. We can either spend our lives comparing ourselves to others or we can listen to God and be content with who we are.

Men have advantages over women and women have advantages over men. God made us male and female (Gen. 1:27). People can try to change that all they want but they will never succeed regardless of how many laws they pass or how much they protest. Women have babies and men grow beards. Men are better at doing some things and women are better at doing others. If someone says this is unfair then he needs to take up the matter with the Creator.

Never before have we heard so much talk about equality. Most of it is about money. Many people think they are entitled to have what others have. They resent anyone having more than they do. Even if the politicians they trust could give everyone the same level of income, there would still be the haves and the have nots. Some would save their income and others would waste it. Circumstances would help to make some rich and others poor. Jesus said there will always be poor people (Mark 14:7). Marxist politicians promise equality and an end to poverty, but their standard of living is not equal to everyone else's. It is above it.

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*Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. — Matthew 7:13-14*

**Thought**

“Majority rules!” That’s the edict of democracy. This has been a blessed political philosophy for so many people over the course of history. But, “majority rule” doesn’t apply to the Kingdom of God. God sets the standard, not us. God’s holiness is the goal, not just trying to be better than someone else. Most, regrettably, will never find the way of the Lord. They want it their way. One crucial problem with wanting things our way: it leads to ultimate disaster. God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life, is the only one who can set life’s agenda. Let’s ask for his help and guidance for our way!

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The Bible says, “You shall not covet... anything that is your neighbor’s” (Deut. 5:21). It does not matter if that neighbor is greedy. What he has is his and we have no right to it. That is why another one of the Ten Commandments says, “You shall not steal” (Deut. 5:19). Private property is biblical.

People will never be equal in physical ways. We are equal, however, in the sight of God. That is because we have a soul that is made in the image of God. All men are equal in that all can be saved. “God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him” (Acts 10:34-35). If people would think more about this they wouldn’t be complaining about the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Anyone who obeys can have treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21). That is real equal opportunity.

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**“America believes in education: the average professor earns more money in a year than a professional athlete earns in a whole week.” —**

Evan Esar

July 18, 2021



**Meeting Days and Times**

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

**Wednesday (via Zoom) ..... Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm**

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