

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

*Sermon for the Lord's Day*

*"Drawing Near to God"*



*Kerry*

## 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!

*Our Lord's Day  
Plan...*

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

*James 1:22*

*We are praying for you!*

**Charles Barry** - for positive results with his new regimen of physical therapy.

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

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

**Bobby Glover** - for keeping the faith in his difficult situation.

**All those with sleep problems** - for sleep that gives the blessings of rest and pleasant dreams.

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

## DOES THIS PASSAGE REFER TO THE SPLENDOR OF HEAVEN?

Raymond Elliott

"But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9). We cannot find this complete sentence in the Old Testament but the expression, "But as it is written" means that the thought is to be found in the Holy Scriptures. In Isaiah 64:4 we read the following: "For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him "(NKJV).

The apostle Paul took this passage for the basis of his inspired message in 1 Corinthians 2:9. To understand this verse we must read carefully the context in which it is found. When the apostle Paul came to Corinth he found that members of the church were following the wisdom of the Greek philosophers. He wanted the Corinthians to know that he was "determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." Paul's preaching was with the "demonstration of the Spirit and power" and not the wisdom of men (1 Cor.2:4). Notice carefully verses 7-8: "But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. So, the "secret and hidden wisdom of God" that He "decreed (predetermined) before the ages" referred to the time when Jesus Christ had been crucified by the rulers in ignorance, not believing that He was God in the flesh! Paul described the "secret and hidden wisdom of God" in verse 9, "But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (V.9).

But That which eye had not seen, ear had not known and had not "entered the heart of man" was made known by the Holy Spirit to certain "inspired men" because verse 10 states, "**But God revealed them to us** ("apostles and prophets") through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God" (Emphasis mine, re). "A manifest proof that the apostle speaks here of the glories of the Gospel, and not of the glories of the future world".

It was the Spirit who communicated to men a description of the Gospel age found

*...continued on back page*

...continued from inside

in verse 10 that included the incarnation of the promised Messiah, the redemption by the blood of Jesus Christ, the establishment of the church of our Lord, and the peace, joy, hope, and the inclusion of all people in His body. That which has been revealed is no longer a mystery or a secret in the plans of God.

One passage among others that helps us to understand that Paul was referring to the new age of Jesus Christ and His kingdom is Ephesians 3:8-12: "To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of **the mystery hidden for ages** in God, who created all things, so that through the church **the manifold wisdom of God** might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to **the eternal purpose** that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him." (Emphasis mine, re).

Gill, in his comments summarizes verse 9 in this manner: "The things which God hath prepared for them that love him; in the original text it is, "for him that waiteth for him"; the sense is the same, for such as hope in the Lord and wait for him, are lovers of him; and the meaning is, that God has prepared and laid up in his own breast, in his counsels and covenant, in the types, shadows, and sacrifices of the old law, in the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, such doctrines and mysteries of grace as were not so seen, heard, known, and understood by the Old Testament prophets and saints; and has reserved for his people under the Gospel dispensation, the times of the Messiah" (Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible).

.....

*Then [Jesus] asked [his disciples], "But who do you say I am?"*

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."*

— Matthew 16:15-16

Thought:

Peter's answer is simple but profound: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Effectively, he was saying, "You are 'The One' God has promised for all these years. This is what I believe!"

Salvation today still hinges on fully relying on Jesus as our Savior. There is no one else on whom salvation can depend. The central issue in our lives then becomes whether or not we truly believe that Jesus Christ, our Lord, is the Son of God and whether or not we live our lives differently from the world because of that faith!

August 8, 2021



Looking west from Fremont Peak

### Meeting Days and Times

Sunday ..... 9:00 am

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

*church of Christ at Alisal*

*67 Eucalyptus Drive*

*Salinas, California 93905-2728*

*Paul McCollum, preacher*

*pulpitpaul@razzolink.com*

*(831)424-9800 or 206-5568*

*www.churchofchristalisal.com/*