

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day
"We Preach Christ Crucified"
(Part 1)



Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

Paul is with us to present the **Lesson**. **Charles Barry** will lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** will lead us in **Song...** may God bless their efforts!

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

~ Happy Lord's Day ~

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

We are praying for you!

Gollapalli Sunil Raju - for the work he is doing to spread God's Word to the lost.

Glenda Rowland - for complete healing from her heck surgery.

Lexy Reed - for rher return and diedication to the Lord's church.

David Smith - for spritual guidance and his return to the Lord.

David Z - for biblical guidance and understanding of how we are saved.

The Alisal Congregation - for more people added to our group of Christians.

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

Two Measures of Humility

By R.W. McAlister

Peace comes from humility – a quiet submission to God who will supply our needs in His own time. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up” (Jas. 4:10).

James identifies two aspects of life as yardsticks for humility. The first is the relationship we have with other people, especially what we say about them. The second is the goal or plans we have for the future.

Humility is measured by your attitude toward others (Jas. 4:11-12). James literally says, “Stop speaking against your brother.” He uses a verb tense that implies such speech was ongoing, and even habitual. They continually “ran down” others. The NIV describes this sin as “slander.” It's cruel, critical, sarcastic speech.

Any attitude that disdains or discredits another reflects an arrogant pride attitude. At times, we need honest discussion and constructive criticism in any body of believers, but James' point, however, is that angry and debasing slander has no place in the church. The royal law of love says that we should love our neighbor as ourselves (Mt. 19:19).

The Bible tells us how we're to regard one another. Jas. 4:11: “Speak not evil one of another, brethren.” A brotherly relationship puts us on the same level. No one can claim superiority, because we're equals in God's family. A true neighbor expresses love through care and concern, and if I judge someone else and put him down, I put myself above him. Christian humility will not allow looking down on another and speaking evil of him.

Humility is measured by your attitude toward life. Jas. 4:13-14 equate self-indulgence with spiritual adultery or worldliness. An arrogant attitude of self-sufficiency with no regard for God is the height of worldliness as we attempt to play God with our own lives and assume that we have final authority and unlimited time.

Understand that James condemns neither planning nor profiting. There are many good reasons to plan and to profit in our work. In fact, in Eph. 4:28, the Apostle Paul advocates, “working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” Having enough for self and some “extra” to share with others is pleasing to God and necessarily indicates profit, and requires

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planning. James condemns the attitude that disregards God as we pursue any legitimate activity. An attitude that says, "Who needs God? I can manage myself. I'm in control of my life!" This attitude is displeasing to God.

The people of Jas. 4:13 lay out a blueprint for their lives that reveals an arrogant belief that they are in control. Every detail is assumed, even to the profits from the year's trade. With great presumption these merchants declare, "To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain" (v. 13). As far as they're concerned, their destination is set, and a year's time is theirs to do with as they please. They have a game plan that presumes destination, time, activity and the profit at the end. The fatal flaw is their failure to include God in their strategy.

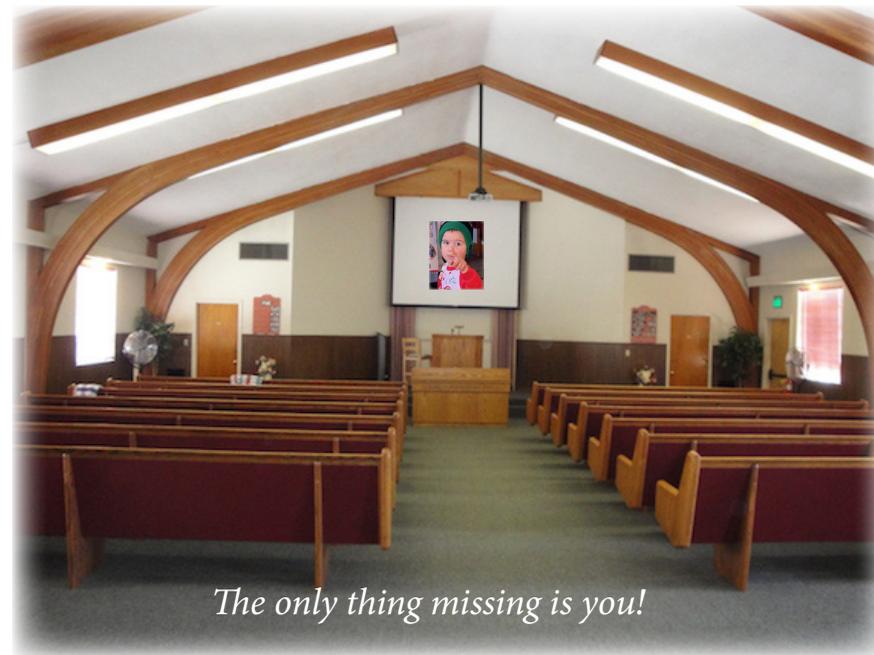
An arrogant presumptuous attitude is faulty because no allowance is made for unforeseen circumstances. "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow." (v.14 a). They planned an inflexible future, when they couldn't be sure they would draw another breath. We cannot predict the events of a day, much less a year. In our congregation, we have seen the effects of tragic accidents and sudden, debilitating illnesses. How dangerous it is to disregard the Bible's clear word, "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Pro. 27:1). There's no certainty that we will even be alive tomorrow. Here's the statistic on death: one out of every one dies.

I Peter 5:6 teaches us: "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time..." In exalting, in lifting us up, God is supporting us. When King Saul was small, or humble, in his own eyes, God made him a great king and leader to the children of Israel - God supported him - but when he became great in his own eyes, God rejected him as king.

God exalts the humble, and rejects the proud. You and I need to understand that God is the only one who knows when it's the proper time to exalt a person, so part of being humble is accepting God's timetable.

Humbly trust God with your life and plans, and remember that God will exalt the humble.

October 24, 2021



The only thing missing is you!

Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

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

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