

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

## *Sermon for the Lord's Day*

### **“Trust in the LORD”**



**Welcome Brothers and Sisters!**

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

*Our Lord's Day  
Plan...*

**~ Happy Lord's Day ~**

*Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength:  
Isaiah 26:4*

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

**Charles Barry** - for less physical pain and good health.

**Rosemarie Johnson** - for healing of her back and extreme nerve pain.

**George and Cindy Brown**- for a positive outcome for George's Colon Cancer.

**The family of Sonia Palmer** - for comfort after her death this past week at her work.

**David Z** - for his heart being opened to the gospel message.

**The Alisal Congregation** - for all of us living more faithfully.

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

## **THE 'WINTER' OF OUR LIVES**

Raymond Elliott

As Virginia and I were on our way home following the Sunday morning assembly, we saw a beautiful tree in its magnificent golden splendor I thought of the words of God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, as recorded in Genesis 8:22: “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” God remains faithful in His promise. We have the changing of the seasons. Autumn, with the beautiful and diverse colors of the foliage is a favorite season of the year. But, we know that soon the array of such beauty will end and winter will begin.

I also thought about the cycles of life and the comparison of the seasons we experience. Some of us are past ‘autumn’ and now we are in the ‘winter’ of our lives. But winter has its own beauty as does old age. While the valley has its splendor, the view from the mountain top is often more beautiful. Because of God's grace and the death of His Son, we know that we are nearer to our home than ever before. Following winter, spring will soon follow with new life springing forth in the vegetative kingdom.

The child of God finds comfort in the words of the apostle Paul as found in 1 Corinthians 15: 50-56, “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**John 17:3**

*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

John W. Ritenbaugh

This verse provides a succinct yet broad biblical definition. We tend to think of eternal life as simply endless life when it is not. Jesus' definition of eternal life is "knowing God." We could say it is understanding the way God lives or that the quality of life that God lives is eternal life. He does not live as a human lives, but He lives on the God-plane. We must learn to live as He lives, to think as He does, to act as He does, to write His image on our minds.

God has set the Sabbath apart so we can know Him, that is, so we can know what eternal life is and live it. Knowing Him is eternal life. Another way to put it is that eternal life is being intimate with Him. He is not intimate with people who rebel against Him nor those who, on the Sabbath day, have their minds on everything else but Him and His way of life. Such people talk about everything else except the things that concern Him and our relationship with Him. Using the metaphor of a courting couple, we cannot come to know Him by going out on a date with Him and then not paying any attention to Him.

The proper observance of the Sabbath is given to humanity so that we might come to know God better on this day than is possible on any other day of the week. He provides an entire twenty-four hours to spend with Him. It is no wonder that He became upset with Israel because they ignored what He wanted from them on the Sabbath. They spent precious little time with Him. They failed to dig into His Word and so failed to discuss His message, His attitudes, His character, His purpose. Their minds were on everything else but Him.

We know that, if we went out with someone of the opposite sex, with whom we expected to have an enjoyable time, and that person paid attention to everybody else except us, we would be frustrated and angry. We would never want to go out with that person again. That is the issue. Eternal life describes the way God lives, and the Sabbath is set apart so that we can come to know Him and become more intimate with Him.

People spend an untold number of years preparing to earn a living in this world. Doctors spend four years at college then study more years at medical school and during their internship. It might take eight, ten, or twelve years for them to prepare a doctor to be successful.

By contrast, God commands us to set aside just one day each week to help us prepare for living endlessly in the highest quality - as He does.

**December 5, 2021**



*The beautiful U.S./British Virgin Islands in the Eastern Carribean*

**Meeting Days and Times**

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

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

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