

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Cornelius

Mark McWhorter

Sermon for the Lord's Day

Lessons From Esther (Part 1)



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 ~

And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:17

We are praying for you!

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

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

Norma Decker - for comfort and healing while at the care facility.

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

Paul and Judy McCollum - for a few days of rest and enjoyment.

The church worldwide - for all of us living more faithfully.

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

We read about Cornelius in Acts 10-11. He was a Roman centurion who lived in Caesarea. God sent the apostle Peter to help him become a Christian. Many commentators say that Cornelius knew almost nothing about Jesus and the church before he became a Christian. They use him as an example for today, teaching that a person does not need to know very much at all about Christ and the church to become a Christian. Yet, the Scriptures do not support that conclusion.

Cornelius was a devout man. That means he was reverent and pious in his life toward God. He feared God with all his house. That means he respected God and recognized Him to be in charge of all things. Evidently, all his family members also feared God. As the head of his house, he had led them in worshipping God.

He was praying to God at 3 p.m. This was one of the standard times for Jews to pray. The Greek word for "prayed" is the word meaning "begging" or "entreat-ing." He was constantly asking God what he needed to do to please Him. Cornelius constantly desired to follow what God commanded. He was told to send for Peter so that the apostle could tell him what to do to be saved (11:14).

Cornelius actively did many benevolent works. This means he followed God's directions to love all men. He was willing to share what he had with others according to God's commandments.

Peter said in Acts 10:37-43 that Cornelius was knowledgeable of the Word. From the Word of God, one can know peace through Jesus Christ, the Lordship of Jesus, John's baptism, Jesus the anointed One of God, Jesus full of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus performed many miracles and that Jesus was crucified and resurrected. Cornelius knew about these things.

From what is recorded, it would seem Cornelius and those with him knew a great deal about the Old Testament Scriptures and about Jesus' life on earth, as well as His Deity.

Study your Bible. Learn all you can from it. Make sure that you are devout, benevolent and God-fearing. Make sure you are doing what is necessary to be saved. If any of this is hard to understand, ask an adult to help you.

December 12, 2021

Things that Made Paul Mad

Gary C. Hampton

Paul's defense before Festus and Herod Agrippa II was interrupted. Luke reports, "Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, 'Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!'" (Acts 26:24 NKJV). The challenge was brought on by the message Paul preached.

The apostle to the Gentiles was considered mad because of the hope of the promise. "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers" (Acts 26:6). The promise was repeated to Abraham when he submitted to God's will, even preparing to sacrifice his only son. God declared, "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:18). Paul told the churches of Galatia the promise was specifically regarding the Christ (Galatians 3:16).

Paul was considered mad because he said the hope ultimately was in the resurrection of the dead (Acts 26:7-8). He reminded the saints at Corinth that resurrection took place in fields around the globe. He explained that each created thing had a body suited to its existence. The body inhabited by humans is natural and the resurrection body will be spiritual. Those living on earth have a body similar to Adam, while those in Heaven will have a body like Christ's (1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-44, 48-49).

Jesus assigned the preaching of hope to Paul, especially among the Gentiles. He began the work in Damascus immediately after his own conversion. He told the assembled dignitaries that the Jews seized him because he proclaimed Jesus as the first to rise from the dead (Acts 26:16-23).

"Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian.' And Paul said, 'I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.'" God, like Paul, wants all believers to join in the so-called madness!



Hibiscus

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.churchofcrystalisal.com/