

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

*Sermon for the Lord's Day*  
**“Man-Made and Divine Traditions (Part 3) ”**



**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** ~

*Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*

*2 Thessalonians 2:15*

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

**Don Blackwell** - for a medical research and cure to repair him from his spinal injury.

**Sunilraju Gollapalli** - for saving souls while teaching the gospel of Christ in India.

**Rosemarie Johnson** - for relief from her neck and back pain and problems.

**Charles Barry** - for better health and energy .

**All people outside the Body of Christ** - for them to hear of the saving power of Christ.

**The church worldwide** - for all of us adding to our faith, knowledge.

***Dear Lord, Lead ys in the Way of Truth!***

**Casting Pearls Before Swine**

Mark Lindley

“Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you” (Matthew 7:6). Jesus made this statement in His great Sermon on the Mount. But what does this verse mean?

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus taught His disciples to be kind, courteous, loving and compassionate to others. However, He also taught that His disciples are to be good stewards of their time and of the Gospel. When Jesus made this statement about casting pearls before swine, He was using language that illustrates the importance of stewardship.

Think for a moment about one of the most precious possessions you have. It may be a piece of jewelry, an heirloom of the family, or some other treasured item. Now imagine taking that item and tossing it into a pen full of hogs. Would the hogs place the same value on your cherished possession as you do? No, rather than esteeming your treasured item, the hogs would trample it in the mud. Hogs simply do not recognize the high value of precious or sacred things.

When Jesus spoke of pearls, He was speaking of that which people highly esteem. There is something, however, that is more precious than pearls—that is, the Gospel of Christ. Jesus knew that there would be some people who would be so carnally-minded they would not appreciate the riches of the Gospel. Some have made up their minds that they will not believe and obey Christ. To expend time and resources in offering God's Word to such people would be like offering “pearls to swine.” There comes a time when proper stewardship demands that we “shake the dust off our feet” and move on to hearts which are more receptive to the Gospel (cf. Acts 13:49-51).

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Christ's followers must never use the "pearls-and-swine-teaching" as an excuse not to help or to teach others. Jesus instructed His disciples to "preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Nevertheless, this is the same Jesus who also warned about allowing hogs to trample precious pearls. It is not always easy to distinguish between those who truly are interested in doing God's will and those

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[Continuing his talk with Nicodemus, Jesus said,  
"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." —  
John 3:16

Key Thought:

God loves us! That is the triumphant message of the Bible. That is the greatest message we will ever receive. Thankfully, however, this message is not just words. God wanted us to know his love for us, so he demonstrated that love at great personal cost.

God loves us! We know that because he gave his Son for us.

God loves us! He doesn't want the power of "perish" to claim us, so he gave us the power of his love.

God loves us! He sacrificed so we could have life.

God loves us! Don't ever doubt it. Don't let the evil one rob you of this life-giving truth.

God loves you and wants to give you life!

February 20, 2022



Meeting Days and Times

Sunday ..... 9:00 am

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

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