

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day

“Everyone Goes to Heaven?”



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** ~

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20

We are praying for you!

Ray Wilson - for prayers of comfort to the family for Ray's passing this past Friday.

Judy McCollum - for relief from her hip and nerve pain.

Sunilraju Gollapalli - for wisdom on how best to share the gospel of Christ in India.

Rosemarie Johnson - for relief from her physical problems.

Charles Barry - for his well being and health.

The People of Ukraine - for safety and peace, especially those of the Lord's Church.

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

***Men's Business Meeting today followed by sharing a meal
at a local restaurant - everyone is invited!***

Gave Himself for Us

Mark McWhorter

We read in Galatians 2:20, *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”* (NKJV). In Galatians 2, Paul dealt with individuals who were trying to convince Christians to live by part of the Old Law – the Law of Moses. He said that anyone who did that would take away the liberty they have in Christ and put themselves into bondage to the Old Law. He told them that he even had to confront Peter when he gave preference to Jewish Christians over Gentile Christians. Paul wrote that Christians are not justified by the Old Law but through the New Law. All the justification that comes through the New Law is based on faith in Jesus Christ (v. 16). No man could be justified by the Old Law. All Christians must be justified by Christ (v.17). This, then, is explained further in verse 20 above. The life a person lives as a Christian is only possible because Christ, the Son of God, was willing to die by crucifixion according to the will of the Father. If He had not done that, we could not be Christians or have justification in the sight of the Father.

Paul said Christ gave Himself for us. Many would interpret that to mean he died in our place. It is correct that he died in our place, but this phrase in the Greek language used the word *huper*. That word means above or over. He died to cover us and be over us. This connects us to the atonement of the Old Testament. Atonement only came by the shedding of blood. Atonement means a covering. Jesus Christ died to cover us and make us pure in the eyes of God. Thus, we are in Christ because He covers us. He protects us and cleanses us from the fiery darts of Satan.

Study your Bible. Learn how to get into Christ. Learn what is necessary to obtain the atonement of Christ. If any of this is hard to understand, ask an adult to help you.

Christ as Lord, or Me as Lord?
Robert Johnson

The short letter of 3 John was written to an individual by the name of Gaius, whom John warmly addressed as “beloved,” or as a “dear friend.” He warned him of a problem that is as much a problem today as then. “I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us” (3 John 9 NKJV). Other translations described him as the one who “loves to have the preeminence,” “loves to have first place” and “who likes to put himself first.” Literally, John called him “the one loving-to-be-first among them Diotrephes.” It’s not the kind of description most people would want about themselves, but it does accurately portray the attitude of many today. Whether done in backroom meetings or in full view of others, such attitudes and ensuing actions are wrong.

Jim Sheerer, in his comments on this passage, said:

Diotrephes was proud. He refused to help the traveling preachers and did not let other Christians help them. The problem was personal. Diotrephes was greedy for place and power. This was a time when the organization of the church was undergoing a slow change. The change that was taking place was to have one man over the church. This was a departure from God’s plan that resulted in further departure in organization. Diotrephes is an example of the early roots of this heresy.

The New Testament is filled with warnings about this. Paul wrote, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4). James adds, “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there” (James 3:16). Perhaps the hardest thing to do at times is to look objectively at our motives and actions, to see where they originate, to make sure we’re seeking first the kingdom and not making plans outside the will of God (Matthew 6:33). Christ is Lord over all (Matthew 28:18), not us (Romans 9:20-21).

John offered us a point of reference by which we can compare ourselves and see where we stand. “Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true” (3 John 11-12). What does it mean to have a good testimony from the truth? Earlier John spoke of those who were ‘walking in the truth’ (3 John 4). It may be this is what John had in mind, a life that was guided by the Truth, being lived in the Truth and could stand objective inspection from others with Truth as the standard of comparison.

I’m sure all of us would want to be identified as a Demetrius, not as a Diotrephes. I’m also sure in one’s own mind a Diotrephes could think of oneself as a Demetrius. However, the real question is how does God consider us? We can answer that by looking objectively at the Truth and seeking others to help us objectively apply it to ourselves. If we’re unwilling to ask the question, perhaps we already know the answer.

.....

Longest Book in the Bible?

Psalms is often said to be the longest book in the Bible due to having the largest number of verses. But when Hebrew words are counted, Jeremiah comes in as the lengthiest!

March 6, 2022



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/