

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day

"Practical Lessons from Ecclesiastes" (Part 2 of 4)



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** ~

Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:15

We are praying for you!

Judy McCollum - for healing from Last weeks eye sugery and for better eyesight.

Rosemarie Johnson - for healing from from her nerve (back, neck, shoulders) pain.

Charles Barry - for continued recovery from his cold or flu.

Oran Parrish - for full recovery from falling because of lack of balance and age (97).

Yesterday over 65 christians and friends met at the church of Christ (Nash and Powell) in Hollister to remember Ray and Lenora Wilson. We sang hymms, prayed together, and heard endearing words from Josh Reed, Judito Aton, and a great elogy by Mike Wooten.

Byran Wilson organized a wonderful event and led us in prayer. A wonerful meal was prepared and enjoydd by all.

WE MUST NOT ALLOW OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR FAITH IN GOD AND IN HIS WORD!

Raymond Elliott

Our faith is foundational in order to have fellowship with our Heavenly Father. In Hebrews 11:6, we read, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." This is also true regarding the Son of God. Jesus said to the scribes and unbelieving Pharisees, "Therefore I said you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins (John 8:24." The apostle John wrote in chapter 20:30, 31, "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

A sincere and unswerving faith will cause our hearts to love God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus in answering a question from a certain lawyer replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). And what is true about loving the Father can also be said about His Son because they are one. In John 10:30, Jesus said, "I and My Father are one." Jesus later said to His disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15, 13). Jesus also said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." "He who has My commandments (words) and keeps them, it is he who loves Me." (John 14:15,21,23). We manifest our love for God by being in submission to His will for our lives.

There are several of the requirements of the Lord that are very difficult to obey because it involves our loved ones who are members of our immediate family. Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:35-37). There are many

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lessons in this passage but the primary one is, we are to love God more than others, including members of our family. To speak of this declaration is one thing and to practice it is truly a test of our faith in His word and our love for God!

One of the hardest things in life that face Christian parents is when a son or daughter leaves where they have been worshiping in congregations of Christ where brethren have endeavored to follow the Word of God regarding faithfulness in what is taught and practiced; and, then for the son or daughter to join another congregation that teaches doctrines and practices that are not according to God's Word. We have seen this take place many times and such actions break the hearts of the parents. But, as parents, our course in life should not be determined by what our adult children may do but what the Lord requires of us to do in such matters. Our love for God must come first in our lives no matter how difficult it might be.

One of God's richest blessings is to have Christian friends. In Psalm 27:17, we read, "As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Benson, in his Commentary on this verse writes, "Iron tools are made sharp, and fit for use, by rubbing them against the file, or some other iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend — Quickens his ingenuity, enlivens his affections, strengthens his judgment, excites him to virtuous and useful actions, and makes him, in all respects, a better man." So, as Christian friends we are to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24).

But, what if a Christian friend is led astray by the influence of someone or by reading articles that teach false doctrines. And, this friend endeavors to influence us to follow them where they have joined another congregation that is in error on some biblical teaching. It is then a decision has to be made. As Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:14, "(So) that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." It is tragic that some members, especially young people, will affiliate themselves with a congregation because of the influence of Christian friends without considering what is being taught by the leaders of that church. As children of God we must always place the Lord first in our lives and not our family members and friends. We must endeavor to be faithful in that which is scriptural and right. Let us pray to God that He will grant us strength to do what is right in this matter.

March 27, 2022



Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

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

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