

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

On Perseverance and Giving Up

Andy Baker

Sermon for the Lord's Day

“AS HIS CUSTOM WAS...”

Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

Charles Barry will lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** will lead us in **Song**, **Paul McCollum** will present the **Lesson**. may

God bless their efforts!

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Luke 4:16

We are praying for you!

The Lord's Church - for sharing the Word and being a living example.

The homeless in Salinas - for safety and a safe place to live.

Have a blessed week!

Everyone gets tired from time to time. Often tiredness leads to exhaustion. When exhaustion is full and there's still work to be done, it can lead to burnout. With burnout comes an increased distance from job or family responsibilities, negativity, cynicism, and an abiding feeling of needful change. The thought is that if I move, or change jobs, or drastically change immediate things in my life, I'll be renewed and no longer feel like giving up. Solomon would say, this "is vanity and striving after the wind" (Eccl. 2:11).

I believe more people are bordering on burnout than ever before. The toll of the last several strenuous years have left many with an emptiness and banality that they alone cannot grasp or manage. We've burned out in many cases. Yet, what God's word says to people like us is, "Don't give up! Keep going!"

When faced with persecution and hardship for simply being Christians, many Jews who embraced Jesus at first found themselves longing for the "easier" and "less wearisome" path of Judaism. The Hebrews writer counsels them their weariness to never consider giving up their hope and confidence obtained through Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:35-39). In chapter 12, he gives several practical things to look at when perseverance is hard:

Look around (12:1a). The witnesses of those who lived faithfully stand as encouragements of people who, by faithfulness, made it through their own times when they wanted to give up (reread Heb. 11).

Look at yourself (12:1b). There may be things you are carrying that are sinful that are tripping you up. There are also things that you're carrying that may not be sinful, but are weighing you down. Give those things up! What do I need to change to persevere (2 Cor. 13:5)?

Look at Jesus (12:2-4). Remember Jesus persevered when He was facing perhaps the most brutal way man has ever invented to kill another. He wanted to do anything but (Matt. 26:39). Yet, He persevered through the cross and became the example "lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls" (12:3).

Look at the trial itself (12:5-12). What you are facing and going through,

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God purposes to refine your character (Jas. 1:2-4). Stay faithful through the difficulty. Don't give up, don't give in! Remember God is with you!

I think Hebrews 12:12-13 ought to be written on our mirrors every morning. God who works through pain will bring healing if we stick it out! Don't give up! Keep going!

With Him, the best is yet to be!

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The Bible Still Reads

Ron Thomas

You may have heard of the Reformation doctrinal stance of Martin Luther, which has now become a doctrine so imbedded in the minds of some, to say anything different is to be branded a heretic. It is said by man that one is justified by faith alone through grace alone. When I ask about where this is taught in the Bible, or better yet, when I ask where "alone" is every used with "grace" and/or "faith," not one person can say. There is a reason for this: the word "alone" (or something similar) is not found except in one location, James 2:24 (be sure to read that).

The New Testament teaches one is saved by faith through grace (Eph. 2:8-9). The word "alone" has no place in that passage, so why is it that many insert it? Because of the failure to accept what the Lord says about baptism. In the minds of man, baptism is a work, and man is not saved by works, they conclude. At the end of the day, when all is said and done, the Bible still reads, "Baptism which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21, ESV).

Those who add the word "alone" add to the Word of God and, thus, go beyond the teachings of the New Testament (2 John 9-11).

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"The longer you delay, the more your sin gets strength and rooting. If you cannot bend a twig, how will you be able to bend it when it is a tree?" —

Richard Baxter

July 31, 2022



Looking west from Fremont Peak

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/