

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

## *Sermon for the Lord's Day*

### **“Going Against The Natural Order”**



**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**.

*Our Lord's Day  
Plan...*

may God bless their efforts!

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

*Genesis 1:27*

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

**Rose Johnson**- for healing from her back and Siatic nerve problems.

**Judy McCollum**- for a safe journey home from Oregon on Wednesday of this week.

**Charles Barry** - for God's grace and comfort at this time of life.

**Linda Redden** - for a successful recovery from her knee replacement surgery.

**Raymond Elliott** - for God's Blessings as he does God's will.

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

***God's Blessings to Everyone!***

### **How Strong is Your Strength?**

*Ron Thomas*

Stephen was a great man of faith (Acts 7). Earlier the Lord had identified him as a man of conviction, reputation, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit. All these traits of character were going to be necessary for what he was about to face.

It is easy to speak favorably of one's commitment to the Lord when resistance is minimal, but when the heat in the kitchen rises (so to speak), the qualities of character are put to a test in a way that the temperature of the room is unable to accomplish. This was the experience of Stephen. He had been accused by the Jewish community of turning the world associated with the nation's Law of Moses and their peculiar customs, upside down (Acts 6:13-14). Stephen had to be a man steady on his feet to have any opportunity to speak clearly. Stressful situations can make the body and tongue quiver. The words of wisdom from Proverbs come to mind: "If thou faint in the day of adversity, Thy strength is small" (24:10, ASV).

As the so-called trial of Stephen got underway, Stephen recounts, briefly, Israel's history; this allowed for him to have an audience before he got to his main point. He gave attention to the call of Abraham, the family of Joseph in Egypt, the Law received by Moses, and how Moses wrote about a coming prophet unlike any prophet before or after him (7:37).

Stephen begins to zero in on his greater point, with a repetition of earlier prophetic tones, how the nation of Israel, as it currently was, was guilty of stubbornness, nationalism, and a refusal to consider the evidence God presented for His Son (7:51-53). This was more than the audience was willing to take. Stephen knew this would be their response, but he said what he did because it needed to be said on this day.

There are many who call themselves Christians who would not do what Stephen did. It's easy to read and understand what we need to, but is there a heart for enduring something similar?

## Harmony with One Another

Bill Whiteman

In some ways, being a Christian would be easier if you didn't have to deal with people. You could just study God's Word and have a personal relationship with God. But that lifestyle (isolation) isn't what being a Christian is all about. If we are truly "Christ-Like" we must interact and have relationships with other people. And those interactions and relationships often bring about disagreement and conflict.

Peter tells us how to live and get along with each other—how to be "Christ-Like." "All of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic: love as brothers, be compassionate and humble" (1 Pet. 3:8).

Peter understood that even though brothers and sisters in Christ sometimes differ in matters of opinion, they can still get along and love each other. All it takes to live in harmony is: sympathy, brotherly love, compassion, and humility. When we employ these things in our Christian life, we become more and more "Christ-Like," and the disagreements and conflicts grow smaller and smaller. Are you living in harmony with one another today?

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### Bible Quiz: Revelation 13:1-9

"And I saw a \_\_\_ rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a \_\_\_."

"Now the beast which I saw was like a \_\_\_, his feet were like the feet of a \_\_\_, and his mouth like the mouth of a \_\_\_."

Who gave the beast his power?

How many months did the beast continue speaking "great things and blasphemies?"

"All who dwell on the earth will \_\_\_ him, whose names have not been written in the Book of \_\_\_ of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Solution: beast; blasphemous; name; leopard, bear, lion; the dragon; forty-two; worship; life

September 25, 2022



### Meeting Days and Times

Sunday ..... 9:00 am

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

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