

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

*Sermon for the Lord's Day*

**"CLASSIFY YOURSELF"**



**Welcome Brothers and Sisters!**

**Jordan Johnson** 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** ~

*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*

*1 Corinthians 16:13*

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

**Raymond Elliott** - for recovery from the pacemaker procedure he had this past Wednesday.

**Kerry and Rosemarie Johnson** - for a stronger physical and spiritual influence on their Grandchildren.

**Cristina Franco** - for comfort with the loss of her mother this past Wednesday..

**The Holtzworth Family (Chance, Barbara, Wendy, and Luje)** - for getting over the flu that has infected the entire family.

**Annette Barry** - for getting over her sinus infection and back to good health.

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

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

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS, BOXES AND WRAPPING PAPER**

RRaymond Elliott

It depends on how many family members, especially children, you have had on Christmas day as to how much 'trash' you will have to remove and carry to the street for the workers to pick up. In our area, you can see the blue cans that are placed on the street are filled with 'trash'.

As we are now in the last days of this year it is good that we dispose of some of our 'trash' if such we have in our hearts and lives. The apostle Paul stated it in this fashion: "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him..." (Colossians 3:5-10). In other words we all need to take an inventory of our lives and make sure that we discontinue those habits and sins that hinder our running "the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1, 2).

In the case of the gift and the giver, both are most important in spiritual matters. We are informed in John 3:16 that God gave the greatest gift ever – His Son to die for our sins on the cross of Calvary. The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5:6-8, "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Just ponder for a while what is said here. We were not friends of God when He gave the greatest gift, His Son; rather, it was when by our own sins we were alienated from God (Isaiah 59:1, 2). Not only that, the Gift (Jesus Christ) also gave Himself for our salvation (John 15:13). The motive was pure love of the Father and the Son.

Because we have been the recipients of salvation, "the gift of God", (Ephesians 2:8), we should give ourselves in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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There are teeming millions of lost souls who need to hear the good news of our Savior Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:1-3) which “is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). There are lonely souls who need our attention and affection. “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble...” (James 1:27). The inspired writer in Hebrews 12:12 gave this exhortation, “Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees...” There is much work for Christians to do as we spread the gospel and help those who are in need of our help. Let us remember the encouraging words Paul has given us as found in 1 Corinthians 15:58: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

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**Lord Make Me Good – Period**

Edd Sterchi

Many people who want a relationship with God often add qualifiers to the mix. They want the Lord to make them good, but with a stipulation added. Here are a couple of examples:

Lord, make me good, but not yet.” These people want to live in sin as long as possible. They want to be able to sow their “wild oats” and then for God to save them before they die.

“Lord, make me good, but not completely.” These folks want to have the “best of both worlds”. They want to be saved, but also still want to hang on to certain sins.

But we should simply say to God “Lord, make me good.” Notice the period at the end. We should say that with no modifiers and with the attitude of doing what God wants us to do and fully trusting Him to make us good and righteous. “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

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*“What seems too difficult for us is a sure sign that it belongs to God.”*

— Marie DePree

*January 1, 2023*



**Meeting Days and Times**

Sunday ..... 9:00 am

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

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