

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

*The Lord's Day Message*

**"Giving Thanks"**



**Welcome Brothers and Sisters!**

**Jordan Johnson** will lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** will lead us in **Song**, **Kerry Johnson** will present the **Lesson**.

*Our Lord's Day  
Plan...*

May God bless their efforts!

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

*Romans 3:23-24*

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

**Cindy and George Brown** - for peace and comfort because of George's prostrate cancer. George will start radiation therapy soon.

**Robert Sagun** - has multiple myeloma with severely critical amyloid.

**Terisita Sagun (Tess)** - Has stage 4 bone cancer.

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

~We are thankful and grateful for Kerry, Charles, and Jordan filling in while Paul and Judy were on vacation.~

**"DON'T FOLLOW ME, I'M LOST"**

Raymond Elliott

One day while driving my automobile, I came close enough to the car in front of me to be able to read the sticker on the back bumper. It read, "Don't follow me, I'm lost." I was reminded of a personal experience of mine that occurred a few years ago.

I was endeavoring to find a particular building located near a lake and I began following some people I thought were going to the same gathering of brethren where I was supposed to be making a speech; and that they would be able to lead me safely to my destination. I was wrong. After traveling some distance on a dirt road, we came to a dead end. The car in front of me stopped and the driver got out and came to my side of the car and started to ask if I knew where the building we both were looking for was located. I answered quickly that I did not know and that I had been following them, thinking that they knew the directions. Eventually, we all arrived at our desired destination.

In religious matters, we must not assume that others know the way of salvation. This would include preachers, parents, loved ones and friends. There is the probability that a blind leader could cause you to be lost (Matthew 15:14). Just because a certain way seems right does not ensure that it is a safe path to travel (Proverbs 14:12). The sad fact is that the majority of people are traveling the wrong highway in this life (Matthew 7:13, 14). Individually, we have the responsibility to search the scriptures for ourselves (2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11). The Bible is the only road map that can safely direct us from this life to eternal bliss (Psalms 119:105).

Another point that I want to emphasize is that people who are lost spiritually and know it, would do a tremendous service to others by wearing a sign that reads, "Don't follow me, I'm lost." A father who refuses to obey the gospel could lessen his influence with his children by making it clear that he was lost and that he did not want them to follow his example of disobedience. An unbelieving

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marriage partner, by wearing this sign would greatly encourage the other mate not to listen to his/her excuses for not obeying Christ. The moralist would no doubt keep innocent people from believing that he was saved and they could also be saved separate and apart from the blood of Jesus Christ. The hypocrites and backsliders could really help in this matter by wearing this sign, thus informing all people that Christ was not living in them and that they were lost and doomed to eternal perdition (Matthew 13:41,42; 2 Peter 2:20-22). This might prevent others from following their ungodly examples.

The only sure and safe way to travel in this life is to follow Jesus who is “the way” (John 14:6). And, He is the one who says to us, “Follow me” (Matthew 16:24).

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### Finding It Hard to Accept

Larry Fitzgerald

A college student in a philosophy class was taking his first examination. On the paper there was a single line which simply said: “Is this a question? —Discuss.” After a short time he wrote: “If that is a question, then this is an answer.” The student received an “A” on the exam.

God is often asked what we consider to be very hard questions. But nothing is too hard for the Lord. However, many of his answers are often very simple to understand but hard to accept.

God very plainly told Adam and Eve: Do not eat of the fruit of one tree in a whole garden of fruit trees. The first couple had plenty of food. They understood the explicit command. But they just didn’t want to accept the rule. So they broke God’s law; and, in the breaking of that rule, they ushered death and calamity into the world (Genesis 2-3).

God gives us His commands. When we break His New Testament directives, there is punishment soon to follow. Yet, we still do the sin despite the trouble it brings. We understand the commands, we just find it hard to accept those commands.

Jesus made it plain. He said: “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

April 16, 2023



Sunset at Honolulu, Hawaii

### Meeting Days and Times

Sunday ..... 9:00 am

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

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