

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

The Lord's Day Message
**"You Never Know Where It
Will Grow"**



Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

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

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

May God bless their efforts!

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.
1 Corinthians 3:6*

We are praying for you!

Rosematie Johnson - for healing from a painful and twisted knee -no results from the MRI indicate physical therapy not surgery.

George and Cindy Brown - for God to be with the medical treatments for George.

Raymond Elliott - for good health and strength to carry on God's work.

Sweeti Parichha - for success in her spiritual and worldly pursuits.

God's Blessings to Everyone!~

Bridles Are Not Just For Horses

Dan Biby

In the traditional sense, riders use a bridle to direct their horse where they want it to go. They use this small but effective tool to control a powerful, 1000-pound animal with ease.

James compares it to the influence we wield with the tongue, one of our smallest muscles: "If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things" (James 3:3,5 ESV).

The world overflows with chatter. Sadly, much of it contains meaningless words that will never bear fruit for God's Kingdom. Let's look at some numbers: Every single day, humans send more than 276 billion Facebook posts, tweets, texts, and emails. That amounts to 34 messages for every man, woman, and child—eight billion people—on Earth. And that doesn't include phone calls, dozens of other social media sites, or just plain old talking.

From a positive viewpoint, these platforms give us an extraordinary opportunity to glorify God and uplift others. They afford us unparalleled capability to offer a kind word to those who are hurt-ing, anywhere in the world. They reduce miles of separation from friends and family to a few keystrokes.

Conversely, these technological advancements draw out the absolute worst—dare I say evil—in people. I don't need to explain my meaning. We've all seen it. Or been hurt by it.

Jesus makes it quite clear that we'll be held accountable for our words. "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:36-37 ESV).

Let us pray to our Heavenly Father that our tongue always imparts blessings and life. "A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit" (Prov. 15:4 ESV).

You Can Have a New Beginning

Gary C. Hampton

Carl Bard once said, “Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending.” I appreciate what he said and think there is some merit to it. However, there is a spiritual sense in which he was wrong.

Jesus told Nicodemus, “...Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3 NKJV). A man dead in sin is buried in a watery grave through baptism, like Christ was buried. He is then raised to live a new life (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 6:3-4).

Paul explained to Titus that all Christians once lived a life of disobedience. God showed His kindness to all men by sending Jesus to be the Savior. Salvation is gained “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:3-5).

Christians are united with Christ in the burial of baptism. We are also united in living a new life when raised from that watery grave. The old man of sin is buried in baptism. A slave who dies is no longer under the power of his master. One who dies to sin is similarly freed from the old master of sin (Romans 6:5-7).

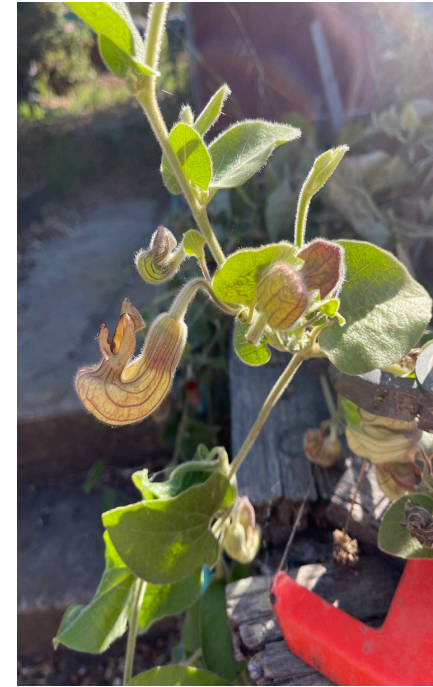
We can join Paul in joyfully saying, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Each of us can spiritually make a brand-new start!

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Hidden Treasures

A South Dakota rancher and his bride received a nice Bible as a wedding gift from his grandfather. They wrote a thank you note and stowed the Bible in a closet. The grandfather asked every so often how they liked it. Eventually, they became curious, dug it out, and leafed through it. They found 66 twenty-dollar bills—one in each book. The grandfather left \$1320 in monetary treasure to be discovered, but God has left inestimable eternal spiritual riches (story adapted from Kathleen Norris. *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*). Understanding the Bible takes effort (2 Timothy 2:15), but its treasures are worth the investment.

April 30, 2023



Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

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

church of Christ at Alisal

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