

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

The Lord's Day Message
"Arguments Against Gambling"



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** ~

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

ohn 13:34

We are praying for you!

Rosemarie Johnson - for relief from her sciatic nerve pain.

Cindy Brown - for God's peace while she deals with with Georg's issues.

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

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Mark 10:9

Judith McCollum

I am thanking God for 57 years of Marriage to my beautiful wife and life partner.

June 10, 1965 - I love you sweetheart! Your husband Paul. - June 10, 2023

Finding Joy in a Joyless World

Dan Biby

Media outlets bombard us 24 hours a day with graphic accounts of depravity in our neighborhoods, cities, and schools. Thousands of ads per day tell us we must buy stuff in order to achieve self-worth, happiness, and fulfillment. And pharmaceutical companies will gladly treat whatever ails us, for a price that many cannot afford.

It's no wonder that people of the world feel lost, depressed, and unhappy. Their only hope of joy comes from earthly events, circumstances, or possessions, which Jesus tells us are temporary (Matt. 6-19).

As Christians, our joy is not rooted in the outcome of a golf game, a promotion, or shiny new sports car. It comes from who we are and Whose we are. It comes from personally knowing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ through our repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38). And it comes from His resurrection that assures our Heavenly inheritance (1 Peter 1:3) and obedience to His commands (John 14:21).

That does not mean, however, that we are immune to pain or sadness. As Christ's followers, we should experience sadness when a friend or family member denies Christ or dies without knowing Him. We should grieve with others who've lost a loved one. And hurt when they've been hurt. After all, they're God's creations, too.

And, like everyone else, we are frail and flawed humans who live in a sinful, imperfect world. We're vulnerable to accidents, malevolence, and painful – even terminal – diseases. We aren't immune.

Thankfully, through our relationship with Christ, we can rise above the trials and tribulations. Look at the Apostle Paul... he was whipped, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, and imprisoned, among many other extreme hardships (2 Cor. 11:24-27). Yet, he found joy: "In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy." (2 Cor. 7:4 ESV)

We can find joy, too. As that beautiful hymn reminds us, "this world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through."

June 11, 2023

Be Fully Equipped Against Satan's Methods

Robert Johnson

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11 NKJV). A song we sometimes sing is “Soldiers of Christ, Arise.” One verse of this song states, “Stand, then in his great might, with all his strength endued; But take to arm you for the fight, the Panoply of God.” The Greek word for “panoply” (πανοπλία) refers to the full equipment of the heavily armed foot soldier, including both offensive and defensive weapons. Every Roman soldier going to battle would take special care to be thoroughly equipped and prepared since his life literally depended on it.

This word appears in the New Testament, not literally for a soldier fighting on the battlefield but in a spiritual sense. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to put on the “whole armor” or panoply of God. They were not to take just some of the equipment needed to fight but all the weapons available. To not have all the resources God offers leaves one vulnerable to attack from Satan, which could be fatal spiritually! Having the full or complete armor God provides enables one to stand against the devil's methods (Ephesians 6:11). From the breastplate of righteousness to the sword of the Spirit, God has provided us all the spiritual equipment needed to overcome sin and so that we can be victorious in daily Christian living.

Paul wasn't romanticizing warfare when he used this term. He had in view the harsh and stern reality of the soldier's life. Peter penned that this is true spiritually, too. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). As Christians, we are engaged in a war for our souls. “Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). Let's rejoice in the loving care God exercises through His Son, because “...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3).

We should take seriously the struggle we face with sin daily. We can be completely equipped and prepared for Satan's attacks if we take advantage of the provision God offers through Christ. “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10-11). Stand firm in the panoply of God and make use of it in the battles you face against Satan and sin. Your soul's salvation depends on it.



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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