

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

*The Lord's Day Message*  
**"Effective Prayer... More Thoughts"**



**Welcome Brothers and Sisters!**

**Charles** will lead our **Bible Class** and singing, **Paul McCollum** will deliver the **Lesson**. May God bless their efforts!

*Our Lord's Day  
Plan...*

**~ Happy Lord's Day ~**

*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

*James 5:16*

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

**Kerry and Rosemarie Johnson** - for safety in Alaska as well having a great time.

**Jordan Johnson** - for safety and enjoyment while vacationing in Ireland and England.

**Sunil Gollapalli** - for continued good work spreading the gospel in India.

**Jude Aton**-for comfort to his family due to his passing last Tuesday.

*The Saturday Breakfast at Watsonville was attended by 21 Christians from area congregations. A great time was had by all!*

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

**Personalities and scripture**

Personalities differ. Some of us thrive on what's new and exciting. We love change. Others prefer the familiar, safe and tested. Don't change anything! Still others of us are practical. We gravitate toward whatever is most efficient in producing desired results.

Such preferences can contribute toward dissenting ideas about congregational practices and worship. Let's hang on to this thought for a moment. 1 Timothy offers us a practical lesson even though Timothy's situation in Ephesus did not involve personalities.

Timothy found himself embedded in a church awash with contrary ideas. Paul's first letter to him advised how to handle this cacophony of voices. It actually was quite simple. Those espousing falsehood were to be silenced (1 Timothy 1:3,6).

However, here's the thing about controversies. People are generally confident that their viewpoint is the right one. Although everyone would have been confident, this was not to be the determining principle of who to silence.

On what basis was Timothy to approach these dissenting voices to point a way forward? God had entrusted Paul with "the glorious gospel" (1 Timothy 1:11). This message had been handed onto Timothy. And now he too had been entrusted to protect it and entrust it to others capable of passing it forward (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:14; 2:2).

Being entrusted with this message meant several things. The message came from and belonged to God. These stewards were responsible before God for how they handled it. They could not permit their personal preferences, opinions or other sources to shape it.

God had provided the glorious gospel. This was the basis for evaluating and winnowing through the various ideas being proclaimed.

In Ephesus different doctrines and teaching sources were being promoted. This is categorically different from how competing personality preferences might propose different paths forward. And yet, the principle of allowing the glorious gospel to shape the path forward is also applicable in this situation.

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There is no need to provide examples how each of the various approaches under different circumstances could distort the gospel. It is obvious that neither sticking with what you are doing, latching onto something new or pursuing the most practical path to one's goal is always the right response. Yet, sometimes it seems to me that some people always grab the same hammer for every situation.

The wisdom from 1 Timothy involves promoting the glorious gospel as the path forward. Sometimes that will require change. Sometimes that will demand sticking to what is. And it always directs us toward the gospel's spiritually healthy and wholistic goals. It is not just about numbers.

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**Plenty of Proof**

Garell Forehand

There are more than 300 predictive prophecies in the Old Testament Scriptures concerning Jesus that were recorded centuries before He was born. Each was accurately fulfilled. Unlike modern predictions, note one of the predictions concerning Jesus missed the mark. Have you ever seriously analyzed the implications of those signs?

Peter Stoner, a renowned mathematician, calculated the odds of just eight of the 300 predictive prophecies having been fulfilled accidentally in the life of one man. The odds are one in ten to the seventeenth power (a ten with seventeen zeros following it!).

I used my computer to do a few calculations in order to make that huge number sink in a little more sensibly. A dollar bill is six inches long. It would take 10,560 dollar bills laid end-to-end to extend one mile. The moon is about 239,000 miles from the earth. Thus, it would take 2,523,840,000 dollar bills laid end-to-end to extend from the earth to the moon.

That is a little over two and a half billion. But as incredibly large a number as a billion may appear to be, the number that Peter Stoner calculated (ten to the seventeenth power) is simply mind-boggling. If one possessed that many dollar bills, he could lay them end-to-end and stretch them from the earth to the moon nearly forty million times (39,622,163). Looking at it differently, those bills could add up to about twenty million round trips to the moon! And that is only eight of 300 predictive prophecies!

We have little excuse to disbelieve the claims of the Word of God concerning Jesus Christ.

July 16, 2023



**Meeting Days and Times**

**Sunday ..... 9:00 am**

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

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