

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

The Lord's Day Message

"The Increase of God"



Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

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

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

~ Happy Lord's Day ~

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

John 9:31

We are praying for you!

Sweeti Parichha - for God's blessings in her spiritual life and success in this world.

The Yaras family - for comfort with the loss of Arron - husband, brother, and father.

The Barry family - for God's comfort and help dealing with worldly people and trials.

Church of Christ - for strength to preach God's Word to all lost souls.

~God's Blessings to Everyone!~

2 Timothy 1:6

"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

Remembering that Timothy was a minister of the church of God, the gift was the power and authority to fulfill his responsibility within it. Though this book was originally just written to Timothy, it has application for all Christians. The principles in it involve every one who has the Spirit of God. Each has been given gifts by God to carry out his portion of God's work within the body.

Salvation is more than mere forgiveness of sin. Another part of God's salvation is that He gives gifts—abilities, talents, powers, authority—to do jobs within the church. Salvation requires a journey to the end of God's purpose. It is a way of life that leads to a goal. God gives every one of us the powers to succeed in reaching the end of the journey: gifts of the Spirit given to carry out our functions within the body.

Just as the apostle Paul used the human body in an analogous way, showing that every portion of the body has its function, so has every portion of the human body been given the power to carry out that function in behalf of the body. So with God's church: No matter how scattered it is, or how unified it is, God has given each Christian the power to carry out his function within the body. So Paul prodded Timothy to make good use of those gifts to help the church.

There is no indication within the context that Timothy was falling short in any way. It is clear from the verbal forms that Paul uses here that these were things that Timothy had done in the past and was continuing to do in the present. It could really be written more accurately in the English, "keep fanning the flame." He was stirring the gift, and Paul was saying, "Keep on stirring it!" Timothy was cultivating the doctrine, the major means by which one keeps or guards what has been given.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

September 10, 2023

When Jesus Doesn't Come

Bart Warren

At separate times, both Martha and Mary said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died” (cf. John 11:21,32).

here are a few ways to understand these grief-stricken words.

First, it is likely these were often repeated words around the home: “If only Jesus was here.” It was common sentiment in that household that life was better when Jesus was around.

Second, there is an acknowledgment that Jesus has the special power and ability to accomplish feats that others cannot.

Third, it seems likely that there is also regret and confusion in these words. When Jesus was so greatly needed, He was not there. Why not? Didn't He know they needed Him? Did He care? Yet, because they were so confident He loved them, they struggled to understand why He did not do anything about the situation. Why didn't He prevent the tragedy from occurring?

We have probably found ourselves in similar situations. We all hurt and suffer. It is natural for believers to ask God where He is and why He allows such painful events to transpire (Ps. 13:1; 42:9; 43:2; etc.).

The response of Jesus to these sisters, particularly His response to Martha, is instructive (John 11:23-26). Their greatest need was not to have their brother back. Their greatest need was to trust Jesus. They needed to trust that, as the Lord of life, Jesus would provide for them in ways they did not yet see or understand. He was always there. He always knew.

The same is true for us—we must trust Jesus through the pain. We must acknowledge that He is matchlessly powerful and that life is better when He is involved. But we must also admit that He is always “here” (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5-6; Ps. 139:1-16). He blesses and restores in ways that bring Him glory and are often surprising to us.

Let us acknowledge that, in spite of any suffering we may be experiencing, our greatest need is to trust our Lord Jesus who is “here” even now.



Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

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

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