

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

The Lord's Day Message

"Unity"



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 ~

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge:...
Proverbs 1:7

We are praying for you!

Chsrmin and Annette Barry - for safe travels to the east coast and home again - we miss you both very much!

Raymond Elliott - for a return to good health after his heart procedure last Friday.

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

~God's Blessings to Everyone!~

A place of refuge

Isn't it good to have a place to go when life tumbles in? Isn't it nice to have a place of refuge where we know we are safe and don't have to worry about anything? God provided such a place for the Israelites, in particular when someone had accidentally killed someone else.

"Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood. When they flee to one of these cities, they are to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state their case before the elders of that city. Then the elders are to admit the fugitive into their city and provide a place to live among them. If the avenger of blood comes in pursuit, the elders must not surrender the fugitive, because the fugitive killed their neighbour unintentionally and without malice aforethought. They are to stay in that city until they have stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then they may go back to their own home in the town from which they fled." (Joshua 20:2-6 NIV)

During that time there was a person known as 'the avenger of blood'. This was someone who would seek to kill you because you had killed someone in their family. Think about the Hatfields and McCoys in the United States: someone from one family killed someone in the other family, possibly over the disputed ownership of a pig, and it went back and forth for almost fifteen years with over a dozen killed from both families and many imprisoned and one executed. It is easy for such situations to quickly get out of hand!

God seems to have anticipated this and provided a refuge, a safe haven, for someone who accidentally killed someone else. There were six towns designated throughout Israel to which someone could flee and be protected from the avenger of blood. There were three east of the Jordan river and three to the west. No matter where you were in Israel, you could get to a town of refuge within a few days at the most.

Once they arrived at the town they made their case and the elders would admit them. If the avenger of blood showed up they would not turn the person

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over to them – they were safe in the designated towns. But notice that the town elders did not just take the person’s word that it was an accident and they were innocent: there would also be a trial to establish the facts. If found innocent the fugitive had to reside in that town until the death of the high priest. If they were guilty they would be dealt with as a murderer (see Numbers 35).

God’s provision prevented innocent people being killed and feuds escalating. He provided a refuge for those who were innocent.

If you think about it, God still provides this for people today – the difference being that he provides a safe haven for the guilty because we are all guilty of sin. But because we are guilty we can flee to him and “take hold of the hope set before us” (Hebrews 6:18). Through Jesus’ death God has given us forgiveness which gives us hope. In Jesus our sins are taken away and we no longer live under the condemnation of sin; we now look forward to eternal life with Jesus.

God’s people today should be communities of refuge, places where the struggling can come and find the hope that we have through Jesus.

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A Father’s Advice

Mark T. Tonkery

Did you have a father who gave you advice? Maybe he gave you advice on relationships, how to take care of your money, car, or a hundred other things. I guess fathers have been giving advice as long as there have been fathers. Take for example Solomon who said, in Proverbs 5:7, “And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth.” Solomon goes on to give all kinds of advice as recorded in the book of Proverbs.

Lieutenant Commander J.P. Carr’s father gave him some advice when his first child was born. He said, “Teach her as many of the seven hundred thousand words of the English language as you have time to, but be sure she knows that the greatest word is God, the longest word, eternity; the swiftest word, time; the nearest word, now; the darkest word, sin; the meanest word, hypocrisy; and the deepest word, soul.” That sounds like good advice to me.

November 5, 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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