

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

## *The Lord's Day Message*

**"Unity"**



**Welcome Brothers and Sisters!**

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

*Our Lord's Day  
Plan...*

**~ Happy Lord's Day ~**

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!  
salm 133:1*

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

**Rosemarie Johnson** - for relief from her neck and back pain.

**Gwen Yee** - for less pain in her knees and her up-coming operation.

**Sweeti Parichha** - for her continued dedication to the Lord.

**Rob Redden** - for strength and endurance in his service to the Lord.

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

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

**Stephen and Cancel Culture**

Mark Lindley

Stephen was a man of tremendous courage who preached God's Word with great boldness. On the occasion of Acts chapter 7, Stephen preached that he saw the heavens opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:56). In the audience that day were unbelieving Jews who rejected Christ. When they heard Stephen preach Christ, they were enraged and "stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him" (Acts 7:57-58). Notice from this text that the Jews "stopped their ears." They refused to listen to what Stephen preached. Rather than listening, they stoned to death an innocent, godly man.

We live in a time when some refuse to hear any opposing view. Rather than granting others freedom to express opposing views, the culture "cancels" them. "Canceling" often involves some type of punishment against those—mostly conservative—who attempt to express controversial views. One may lose business, be fired, or publicly shamed if one dares to share an opposing viewpoint. Much like the unbelieving Jews "stopped their ears," some "stop their ears today" and cancel all opposing views.

However, the unbelieving Jews who stoned God's faithful preacher, Stephen, did not change the truth about Jesus. They refused to listen, even stopping their ears, but their rejection of Stephen's message did not change the truthfulness of the message.

Likewise, refusing to listen to opposing views today will not change the truth. Refusing to listen to the pro-life position that abortion is taking innocent, human life, does not change the truth about abortion. Silencing the voices of those who oppose homosexuality, does not change the truth that homosexuality is a perversion of God's plan for human sexuality (Leviticus 18:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). "Canceling" those who affirm that there are only two genders, male and female, does not change the truth that being transgender is a distortion of God's original plan (Genesis 1:26-27).

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Christians must always speak with love and compassion for others (Ephesians 4:15). However, if ever there was a time when bold, brave, Christian voices were needed, that time is now! “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word” (Acts 4:29).

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**Jesus wants all of His followers to have a pure heart.**

In 1877, Fannie C. Davison wrote these lyrics for a hymn that is now well known and loved:

**Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; may I devote my life wholly to Thee;  
Watch Thou my wayward feet, guide me with counsel sweet;**

**Purer in heart, help me to be.**

**Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; teach me to do Thy will most lovingly;  
Be Thou my Friend and Guide, let me with Thee abide;**

**Purer in heart, help me to be.**

**Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; that I Thy holy face one day may see;  
Keep me from secret sin, reign Thou my soul within;**

**Purer in heart; help me to be. Amen.**

Jesus said in Matthew 5:8 - “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” The idea here is that Christ wants us to have a clean or pure mind. This notion is stressed elsewhere in the New Testament - “Love one another fervently with a pure heart” (I Pet. 1:22). Generally, we think of purity as cleanness. Thus, we need to have an innocent or chaste mindset. This is not easy in the corrupt world in which we live.

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Applicant: “What about benefits? My last job paid for medical insurance, a month of sick leave, bonuses several times a year , and two-hour lunches”

Personnel manager: “If it was so great, why did you leave?”

Applicant: “They went out of business.”

March 24, 2024

*Big Sur Lighthouse, Big Sur, California*



**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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