

# Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal



## Sermons for the Lord's Day

### The Living Redeemer AM & PM

## Announcements Alisal Weekly

1. **Romans Class This Wednesday at 6:30 pm** - Chapter 11 #4
2. Wednesday Invitation - Jordan
3. **Think!** *How would you prove that you put Christ first in your life?*

## Prayer List

1. **Norma Decker** - for better health and strength to be with us.
2. **Teresita Sagun** - for remission of her cancer.
3. **Robert Sagun** - for successful recovery from his heart disease (hATTR amyloidosis). Robert continues chemotherapy and testing.
4. **Rosemarie Johnson** - for improved health and strength to carry on.
5. **Bobby Glover** - for continuing to reach out to the lost.
6. **Manuel Castillo** - for healing from complications after heart surgery.
7. **David & Vicki Ryal** - for good health and David's return to the pulpit.
8. **Raymond and Virginia Elliott** - for good health and strength to continue teaching those in and outside the body of Christ.
9. **Those serving the Lord** - for physical and spiritual strength in their service.
10. **Arlene Nolan** - passed away Friday morning - please pray for the family
11. **Judy McCollum** - for a safe and enjoyable visit with family in Oregon.



## Could the works of Christ be over-emphasized?

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. (BNC) by Jeremiah Tatum — Wow, what a crazy title to an article! The immediate answer to the question in this article has to obviously be, "Never!" We live and breathe and hope in Christ alone! And yet what I am about to say is going to shock you.

I am going to tell you that the answer to this question in some circumstances could be yes.

I was not intending on writing this article. I had another plan for another subject. But while preparing my lesson this week I thought about something and I felt it needed to be expressed.

I am not preaching this Sunday about "Easter" specifically or about the resurrection of Christ. I would like to think that I discuss the resurrection of Jesus in every article, lesson, or any form of Bible teaching. But I know that 99% of preachers out there are going to preach on the resurrection today. Just like 99% of preachers will preach on the birth of Jesus on the Sunday before Christmas.

But here is what I think. (I recognize that this is merely my opinion).

I have watched how the world responds to Easter and Christmas. We can look at it on one end and just be happy that these man-made holidays were created in the sense that both the birth of Jesus and his death and resurrection are recognized as historical events. We can rejoice that folks want to keep mindful of these things. And we can use these opportunities as ways to reach out to the lost about Christ.

But this is what I have observed in my short time here on earth. Whenever we have chosen one day to celebrate something with a huge amount of pomp, it often leads to the very neglect of that thing we are observing for the rest of the year.

For example, in reality, women can probably lament Valentine's Day. How often will men treat women as special on all the other days as they do on February 14th?

What I see at Christmastime is a world enamored with the birth of Jesus for a month rather than a year. What I see with Easter is a religious community that is thankful for the resurrection for a weekend and not every single day.

I pause about taking one moment to celebrate something I should celebrate all the time. In the overemphasis of a humanly ordained holiday, I wonder if there is a danger in deemphasizing Christ in general.

And so today we have "Easter" in the larger sense ... in that our country recognizes this day as a holiday. People dress a certain way. Spring is embraced. There are bunnies and Easter egg hunts and family traditions and more. That's fine. It is a part of our culture we all enjoy.

But in the meantime, I hope I am never guilty of only loving my Lord for everything he did for me on Calvary for just one day. There is wisdom from God in that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ himself and observed by the church as the first thing done every week. We are content to continue with what God has ordained.

"And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me. In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me" 1 Cor 11:24-15.

April 21 2019

## Opening to Opportunity

Brian R. Kenyon

When “opportunity knocks,” what is our reaction? Sometimes we are fearful. Sometimes we ignore it. Sometimes we do not even realize it is present. Unfortunately, opportunities do not always return when missed. Let us learn about opportunity from Paul’s statement to the Corinthians: “But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries” (1 Corinthians 16:8-9). The word “door” is often used as a metaphor for opportunity (Acts 14:27; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3; Revelation 3:8).

First, when opportunities come, we must make plans accordingly. Paul was willing to continue in Ephesus where the opportunity presented itself. “Pentecost” no longer carried a religious connotation for Paul, but it was a good way of marking the time of year. He would continue working in Ephesus until late spring or early summer before visiting Corinth. The reason why some Christians miss spiritual opportunities and corresponding plans to take advantage of them is they are too focused on things of this world (Matthew 13:22; Romans 12:2). The best way, then, to recognize spiritual opportunities is to be spiritually minded (Colossians 3:1-2; Romans 8:5-8). When recognized, we can make plans with God in mind (James 4:13-15).

Second, opportunities to save or to edify souls, including our own, are worth every effort. The words “great” [“wide,” NAS] and “effective” [“effectual,” KJV] indicate that Paul’s opportunity in Ephesus was tremendous. In fact, the word translated “effective” means active and powerful. It is the same word from which the English word “energy” derives. Sometimes, Christians squander opportunities because they are not willing to make the sacrifices necessary to take advantage of them (Matthew 25:1-13). However, we must realize that no matter the temporary sacrifice, the eternal blessings are worth it (Romans 8:18)!

Third, opportunities often come with obstacles. Paul had “many adversaries.” These adversaries stood against Paul as he served the Lord. The opposition against Paul in Ephesus is well documented (Acts 19:21-40; 2 Corinthians 1:8-10), but by God’s grace, he was still very successful (Acts 19:1-20)! Christians today also face opposition when they take advantage of spiritual opportunities (Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-16). In order to do our best for the Lord, we must neither fear the opposition (Philippians 1:28) nor give “opportunity to the adversary” (1 Timothy 5:14).

There is so much opportunity for Christians to grow in the Lord. Let us take advantage of each opportunity and give ourselves to His service!

*And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,  
After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down;  
and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:*

*That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my  
name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.*

*Acts 15:15-17*



## Meeting Days and Times

**Sunday** ..... 9:00 am Class - 10:00 am & 5:00 pm Worship

**Wednesday** ..... Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:30 pm

*church of Christ at Alisal*

*67 Eucalyptus Drive*

*Salinas, California 93905-2728*

*Paul McCollum, preacher*

*pulpitpaul@razzolink.com*

*(831)424-9800 or 206-5568*

*www.churchofchristalisal.com/*