

February 12, 2017

# church of Christ at Alisal

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## “YOU HAVE NOT PASSED THIS WAY BEFORE”

Raymond Elliott

The great leader, Moses, had died and the Lord God had chosen the faithful warrior, Joshua, to be the leader of the children of Israel. They were encamped on the east side of the River of Jordan and the time had come for them to cross over the River of Jordan and into the land of ‘milk and honey’, the land of Canaan. God had assured Joshua several times that He would be with him as he was about to enter the promised land (Joshua 1:6-9).

In Joshua 3, the priest, carrying the ark of the covenant, were to lead the people across the River of Jordan and into the land that God had promised to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). Joshua, in charging the people to follow the priest at a certain distance, said this to the people, “FOR YOU HAVE NOT PASSED THIS WAY BEFORE”. The children of Israel were about to enter a land they did not know.

As we enter this new year of 2017, it could also be said of us, “For you have not passed this way before.” We do not know what this new year will bring. It might be weal or woe, sadness or happiness, life or death, success or failure, etc. For the child of God, we should read what God said to Joshua and to know that basically He tells us the same: “Be strong and of good courage”, “Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord you God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:6, 9). In Hebrews 13:5, we read, “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Because we are children of God, this is the blessed assurance we have in our Lord. Here are some suggestions that will strengthen you as you enter the uncharted course in this new year of 2017:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

Love God with all your heart, soul and mind (Mark 12:30).

Love your brethren and your neighbors (John 13:34, 35; Mark 12:30).

Do good to all men and especially your brothers and sisters in Christ (Galatians 6:10).

Attend the assemblies of the church to worship God and to exhort/edify/build up one another in the most holy faith (Hebrews 10:24, 25).

Be steadfast in prayer (Romans 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Increase your knowledge of the Word of God by reading and studying it daily (Psalm 1:13; 119:97; Matthew 4:4; Acts 20:32).

I close this article with the words of the apostle Peter as found in 2 Peter 1:10, 11: “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

**Are You Listening?**



*From all the lovely people - God Bless You! Give Thanks to God!*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK  
Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California  
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.  
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

# Welcome

**Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!**

## This Week's Sermon's

**A.M. - Forsaking the Assembly  
P.M. - Government**

.....  
**Destined to Repeat**  
by J. Randal Matheny



Many of the Old and New Testament writers look to history for clues and lessons. One of the greatest lessons of all is that those who do not know the sad history of the repeated failure of God's people are likely to follow in their footsteps.

After a review of Israel's fall in the desert, the writer of Hebrews concludes, "Thus we must make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by following the same pattern of disobedience" (Hebrews 4.11 NET).

Here is a pattern in the Bible we don't want to follow!

This "same pattern of disobedience" was followed in the past by Israel, and look what happened to them! The lesson is clear: Disobedience to the will of God brings failure to enter the rest that God has prepared for his people; obedience ushers God's people into that rest.

Just yesterday a man posted on Twitter that "the 10 commandments cannot coexist with Jesus as my lord, my savior and high priest. I must choose: do I want law or do I want grace?" The poster confused obedience with legalism (a term, by the way, which never appears in Scripture)/1. And he must have forgotten that all the ten commandments, minus one, were brought over in spirit or letter into the New Testament.

It is correct to say that no one can earn their salvation. But that is a far cry from saying that obedience is necessary to salvation, and Hebrews declares the truth of it both by the example of the Israelites and by specific statement:

And by being perfected in this way, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, and he was designated by God as high priest in the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 5.9-10

How interesting that this passage ties obedience to the priesthood of Jesus! We are to follow this same pattern of obedience that we see in Jesus. Just as he could not be our high priest without obedience (Hebrews 5.8-9), so we cannot be saved eternally without obedience.

On Hebrews 4.11, James Thompson writes in the Living Way Commentary series:

The Old Testament was, for the writer of Hebrews, a book of examples for moral conduct (chap. 11). The Old Testament was often used as a source of examples for the church, as in James 5:10, where one finds an "example" (hupodeigma) of mutual service.

Even the Old Testament itself constantly doubles back to find examples of obedi-

ence and disobedience to the will of God.

As another instance of refusing to learn the lessons of history, the books of Kings appear to have been written with a similar purpose in mind, even though it is nowhere stated explicitly. The kings are compared to the two opposite standards of David or Jeroboam.

Finally, what the kings fail to do, the prophets pick up as they call the people of God back to faithfulness to the covenant. God's man from Bethel, Elijah, Elisha, and others occupy a larger and larger space as the kings stray further afield.

The experience of others is the best teacher. And the inspired record of the experience of others, both good and bad, is the best example we have of how to remain faithful to God as we walk toward the eternal rest awaiting us at the end of the Way.

1/ Rants against legalism are often attempts to do away with obedience to the commandments of God, which is necessary for salvation. The greater danger today is not binding, but loosing, and one against which we should ever be alert.

Would you like to learn the songs of the church?

Go to:

<http://www.searchtv.org/music.html>

and listen to many songs we know and many we do not know. Men, here is a great chance for you to learn songs you may not be familiar with and to lead on our singing and prayer nights.

## Announcements

1. Brother Jordan will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Sixteen attended the family night Friday and enjoyed the Bible quiz and great fellowship. We thank Charles and all those who brought refreshments for making this such a good time.

~ On the Prayer list

**Gideon Barry** - for a full recovery from his intestinal virus and ear infection.

**Norma Decker** - for recovering from the flu/cold that is "going around".

**Bobby Glover** - to successfully teach others about Jesus while in prison.

**Michael White** - for helping others as he serves his time.

**Our country** - and our new President Trump and Vice President Pence.

**All the saints** - and the knowledge and zeal to teach those who are outside the body of Christ.

**Have a blessed week!**

**Be prepared for our regular Bible class this coming Wednesday at 6:30 PM.**

