

February 19, 2017

church of Christ at Alisal

67 Eucalyptus Drive
Salinas, California 93905-2728
(831) 424-9800 or 726-1319
Paul McCollum, preacher
pulpitpaul@razzolink.com

LET IT GO Ed Smithson

I ran into someone not long ago that was ranting over something that had happened to them several years before. As I sat listening to this overblown harangue I wondered, “what do they get out of constantly rehashing the events?” It isn’t the first time I have run into that kind of thing. It happens all the time: a person will take some event of their life that was traumatic and years later they are still grieving over it.

Everyone does not get along with others all the time. There are differences of opinion that are settled amicably but occasionally there are anger and grudge-holding results. The scriptures give us a way to settle such differences but it is seldom followed. Perhaps because it is so difficult to do. “And if thy brother sin against thee, go, show him his fault between thee and him alone: if he hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he hear thee not, take with thee one or two more, that at the mouth of two witnesses or three every word may be established. And if he refuse to hear them, tell it unto the church: and if he refuse to hear the church also, let him be unto thee as the Gentile and the publican.” (Matt. 18:15)

While this passage deals specifically with sin (a violation of scripture) it can also deal with disagreements that do not involve sin. Sometimes also what one considers sin is nothing more than baseless accusation that involves emotions rather than real facts. If you want to stump a brother that comes to you with a story, offer to go to the offending party and face them. Ninety times out of a hundred it will stop there.

Far too many people, and that includes those in the church, harbor ill will toward others who they think have done them wrong. I cannot think of anything that will demoralize a person more than holding a grudge. It causes anger, feelings of inadequacy, failure to be the father or mother they should be and prevents the Christian from his interest in the souls of others.

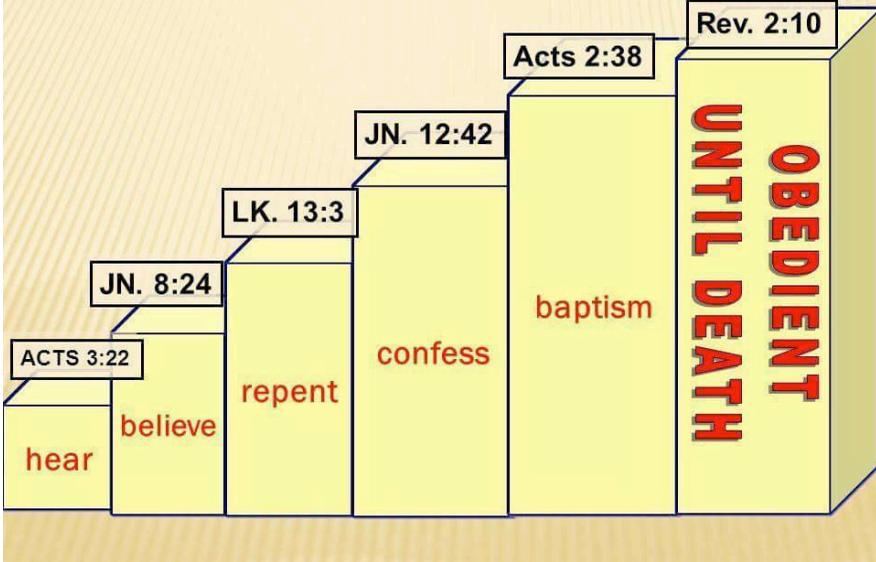
It does not cost a person anything but loss of pride to “move on” from such things, but it just might cost that person his eternal destiny if he holds a grudge. Best thing to do in those circum-

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*Whatever else may be said of man, this one thing is clear:
He is not what he is capable of being.*

Are You Listening?

GOD’S SIMPLE PLAN FOR SALVATION



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. - Idols in the Heart -1
P.M. - Idols in the Heart - 2



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Examine Your Faith!

Guy Orbison, Jr.

Do you know what you believe and why you believe it? Is there evidence for what you believe or do you merely accept the doctrines you practice simply because your church practices them or someone you admire teaches them?

These are important questions that every Christian should ask of their faith. In my forty plus years of ministry, I have observed that many people, whether in our fellowship or in some denomination, do not really know why they believe what they believe. They only accept what they have been taught without examination. The biblical Bereans were praised by Luke because they were a people who questioned everything passed off as doctrine by "examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). If we are not like the Bereans, then we might accept something as the truth which may not be the truth. Without evidence for what we believe, we are liable to believe anything.

False teaching has its way with uninformed people. False teaching makes a lie sound good and right, but what it promotes is not the truth. People who do not know why we meet and partake of the communion on Sunday can be convinced that we could just as easily meet on Saturday—so some are now doing that. People who do not know why women cannot fill our pulpits are being persuaded that they can. Brothers who have not considered the reasons why we do not use the instrument in worship to God are being taken "captive through philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men" (Col. 2:8).

Salvation is not dependent on which church you choose, but on what you believe and practice. Jesus spoke of the possibility that those thinking they are serving God might just be honoring Him with lip service, but not with their hearts and that they may be offering up "vain worship" by "teaching as doctrine the precepts of men" (Matt. 15:7-9). Many people choose a church which makes religion comfortable for them, but they have not chosen the truth nor are they following truth. Truth is what makes us a genuine disciple of Jesus (Jn. 8:31, 32). Many "claim" they have truth, but when compared with the words of Jesus it is obvious that they are promoting something entirely different. Our loyalty should always be with Jesus and not some church—or our favorite preacher.



What do you believe about remarriage after divorce? What do you believe about baptism? These are questions that can carry eternal weight and we better find the truth in answering them. Preachers and congregations can go astray. Remember Corinth? One of the last things Paul wrote to that straying church was this: "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you --- unless indeed you fail the test?" (2 Cor. 13:5). Now is the time to put what we believe and practice to the test. On our death bed will be too late for such an examination. We cannot afford the luxury of being either "liberal" or "conservative" in our beliefs—we must possess truth and nothing but the truth. And, truth will cost you something. It will alienate you from those who do not want truth—even among your so-called brothers. But folks, truth is the only thing that will bring us to God; following lies will send us in the wrong direction. So, to be a genuine disciple, you must be a genuine truth seeker. And, that's what I'm after... within my earthen vessel.



And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32)

Kindness characterizes Deity, even toward those who care not for Him (Psalm 145:9; Luke 6:35). Kindness is a quality of love (1 Corinthians 13:10). It is a quality which must characterize God's people (Romans 12:10). It is one of the "Christian graces" (2 Peter 1:7).

Announcements

1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Judy and Paul will be traveling for the next couple of weeks. Please keep us in your prayers. Bulletins will resume upon our return.

~ On the Prayer list

- Norma Decker** - for improved health for her cold/flu, and COPD
- Kerry Johnson** - for healing of his cough and cold.
- 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!