

May 7, 2017

# church of Christ at Alisal

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## A Mother's Steadfast Love

*Matt Clifton*

The love of a mother is one of the most powerful forces known to man. A beautiful Bible picture of motherhood is found in the woman named Hannah. In 1 Samuel 1, we read of her faithful prayer asking God to bless her with a child. She promised God that she would dedicate him to the service of the Lord. When the child Samuel was born, Hannah kept her promise. Although she left Samuel in the service of the temple at around age two or three, she never forgot him. She continued to make him a robe to wear each year, and delivered it to him herself (1 Samuel 2:19). One can only imagine the care she went through thinking of his needs as he grew, even though he wasn't with her. What a faithful mother!

By her faithful remembrance of Samuel, Hannah was exhibiting one of the characteristics of God. Isaiah 49:15 says, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you." God has such a powerful love for His people. He never forgets His children!

Your mother certainly loves you. But what great comfort we can take today in knowing God loves you even more! Let us be thankful for such steadfast love!

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**From Death He Arose**

From darkest grave, from death he arose,  
As sacrifice for sin he gave  
His life, and blood to save flowed freely.  
I know I'll rise and never die  
Again because my God and Lord  
Was first to be raised, before me.  
I love the way the Lord has opened.  
*J. Randal Matheny*

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***Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.***

*Proverbs 10:12*

### Thought

Our worst tendencies want to repay evil with evil, spite for spite, pettiness with pettiness, and hatred with hatred. God has always wanted his people to be the redemptive influence in their world, society, and relationships. Paul reminded the Christians in Rome to "not repay evil with evil." (Rom. 12:17) Here, God's wise man teaches us a similar truth. Love removes the teeth out of difficult situations, while hatred only turns up the flames of bitterness and hate. We're called to be a different kind of people that leave the world a different place. It isn't always easy, but it is always powerful.



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. - The Parable of the Tares

P.M. - Parable of the Tares Explained

### The Importance of Integrity

Bart Warren



The term integrity has been defined in various ways. Some would say it is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principals. Others would say it is doing the right thing all the time simply because it is the right thing—doing the right thing knowing no one will know whether you did it or not.

I want to suggest, based upon Scripture, a life of integrity is what should characterize each Christian.

A life of integrity makes us like Jesus. "...Jesus Christ...went about doing good..." (Acts 10:38).

A life of integrity protects our reputation. "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us" (Titus 2:7-8).

A life of integrity gives us confidence to face eternity. "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain" (Phil. 2:14-16).

A life of integrity strengthens the message we share with others. "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:11-12).

Doing the right thing—doing what Jesus Christ would do—will have a huge impact on our own lives and on the lives of others. Are we known as people of integrity?



## Self-Control

An Old Chinese proverb goes like this: "If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow." I'm not sure about the number of days, but the basic idea is certainly true.

Any of these sound familiar? "I wish I hadn't said what I did." "I would give anything if I had kept my mouth shut." "I wish I could take it back." Most of us have been forced to use one or more of these, or similar, expressions.

What about the determination to keep ourselves under control? Some brag that they speak their mind. Those who have to hear them know that is not a good thing.

The rest of us need, in calmer moments, to resolve that we will speak with poise, even when provoked. Each of us needs to say, "I am determined, with God's help, not to let anyone make me angry enough to lose control of my temper. When we lose control, we lose. Remember the words of Proverbs 16:32, "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city." *Allen Hahn*

### A Tribute to our Mothers...

There is simply no way we can ever really thank mother for all she has done for us. She is the one who will be awake all night when we are sick. Praying to God to make us well and be ever ready to bear the pain that we may be experiencing. She is the one to wake up early in the morning to make the nicest tiffin and endure all our tantrums. Mothers are the ones who would forever complain that we are not eating enough or not eating right. They would cook all sorts of things so that we be strong and healthy. Mothers in fact, worry more for our examinations than we must. They would take pains to complete our school projects leaving all other works behind while we play around with friends or just while away time watching movies.

## Announcements

1. Brother David will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Alisal will host the Second Saturday Breakfast May 13.

~ On the Prayer list

- Kerry Johnson** - healing from his leg and knee injury.
- Annette Barry** - getting well from her sinus infection...
- Charles Barry** - getting well from his sinus infection.
- 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 leaders.
- All the saints** - and the knowledge and zeal to teach those who are outside the body of Christ.

**Have a blessed week!**