

## CHRISTIANITY BY PROXY

Ed Smithson

Christianity is an intensely personal way of life. Every aspect of living the Christian life is keyed to the individual. While there is corporate responsibility, like public worship, most of the activities are keyed to the individual. For instance, when Jesus said, “for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.” (Mat. 25:36-37) Like when Paul said, “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I gave order to the churches of Galatia, so also do ye. Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper,” (1 Cor.16:1-2)

In recent years there has been a growing trend in many of our churches to get away from personal responsibility and lay the responsibility on the corporate body or a “hired servant.” The fact is, many people have grown to accept the idea that we can practice Christianity By Proxy.

A preacher was visiting with an eldership about working with them as their preacher. They asked him many questions about what he perceived his work with the church to be. Then they presented to him what they would expect of him if they agreed to work together. One of the first was that he get acquainted with all the people of the church by visiting in their homes within a year. Another was they expected him to visit the hospitals when people were sick.

My Bible reads, “The elders therefore among you I exhort...Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight.” (1 Pet. 1:1-2) It appears to me that this passage is telling the elders of the church to do that which the elders are suggesting to the preacher he does. Visiting the hospital and sick is a fine thing and needs to be done, but it needs to be done by all Christians. Those who expect the preacher to be the official “shepherd,” and the official “visitor” apparently are trying to practice Christianity By Proxy. If the preacher does it, it is after all, being done.

**Think about it!!!**

*We now are on radio station KKMC 880. We have a 60 second announcement 4 times each day M-W-F and weekends!  
Stay tuned because there will be more coming.*

May 28, 2017

## church of Christ at Alisal

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Paul McCollum, preacher  
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*You are LOVED  
and you are in our  
prayers!*



**Sammy Walker**  
Brother in Christ  
1976 Olympian  
*Shot Put &  
Weightlifting*

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!



Jordan

## This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - Who Overcame Discouragement?

P.M. - Keep Calm and Carry On



### Plants in the Ground

Christine (Tina) Berglund

“Plants in the ground, plants in the ground, working like a fool putting plants in the ground.”

This is a little rap ditty that our plant sharing group chants when our plant acquisitions overtake our plant installations. It's a parody of a popular rap song introduced to the American Idol audience by “General” Larry Platt in 2010.

It's easy to keep on getting, getting, getting new plants from all kinds of sources, without a real intended home for every one of them.

True, once in a while a gardener finds the perfect specimen for a particular location in her garden, and then must move a less desirable plant out of the way.

But in my “addiction enabling” circle of friends, we often just want to have the newest and best plant, especially when it can be found at a bargain price.

The result is often a collection of plants awaiting their forever homes, languishing for far too long in a temporary place we call a “pot ghetto.” Some never make it out of there alive!

Near the end of springtime many of us are frantically digging up our gardens to put the plants into better places to survive the rising temperatures and drying winds of summer.

“Plants in the ground,” we encourage each other. Plant acquisition is not a bad thing in and of itself, but if the pace outstrips our ability to plant and care for the new arrivals, then we run into problems.

Similarly, it's a good thing to acquire Bible knowledge, but an even better thing to implant it into our hearts and minds and let it take root there and grow.

The shallow and constricting black nursery pots won't let plant roots spread out and thrive, any more than our brains are meant to hold such valuable treasure as God's word without letting it take root in our souls.

The living and active word of God is meant to find a forever home in our hearts. Bible knowledge and memorization are the “acquisition” phase of Christian growth, like my bargain shopping and plant swapping. However, if all we do is acquire, we might be in danger of letting the precious knowledge shrivel and die of neglect if it is not put to good use.



For instance, I have a few herbs sitting on my back porch right now, waiting to be planted. They are in the two-inch plastic nursery pots that they came in. The outer roots started to curl around the pots as they seek further nourishment and water. On very hot days, the tiniest of these roots will die.

Oh, it won't kill the plants when that happens. But it will prevent the herbs from growing much bigger, and if kept confined like this, they will be too stressed to survive the winter.

Meanwhile, the leaves will never develop enough essential oils to make them tasty enough to use as seasonings. There is not enough nourishment in a few cubic inches of dirt for that!

The constant drying of the limited soil is like the second type of heart described in the parable of the sower.

“A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture” (Luke 8:5,6 KJV).

Let's get the Bible transplanted into our hearts and minds, and then into our actions!

“Good News Today” - Sunday mornings at 4:30 a.m.  
- hear great Bible lessons and sermons. Channel 376 on Direct TV and channel 267 on Dish network.

## Announcements

1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. The long sleeved Tee Shirts have arrived. Get yours before they all are gone.

**Singing and prayer this coming Wednesday evening! Please be prepared!**

~ On the Prayer list

**Our Congregation** - for dedication and growth as well as good health  
**Bobby Glover** - to successfully teach others about Jesus while in prison.  
**Michael White** - for helping others as he serves his time.  
**All those** - who have given their lives for the freedoms we have. Rest in peace!  
**All the saints** - and the knowledge and zeal to teach those who are outside the body of Christ.

**Have a blessed week!**