

February 11, 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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“RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES”

Ed Smithson

Most everyone thinks they are right most of the time. Some think they are right all the time. I guess it is one of those human failings.

But there was a time in Israel the Bible tells us “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” (Jud. 17:6) The same thing is mentioned again in chapter 21 of Judges.

It appears that since there was no king in Israel and the Israelites had rejected God (1 Sam. 8:7) as their king, they thought they could do as they pleased. Thus everyone was his own “lawgiver” so to speak and did whatever he wanted.

It appears that the Israelites wanted to be like other nations around them. (1 Sam. 8:5) They were no longer satisfied with God ruling them and telling them what to do, and they saw other nations had a king and they did not, so they demanded a king.

So God let them have a king, but he told them exactly what would happen to them under a king. It was not pretty, but they really did not care about the consequences then, they just wanted a king.

>From the beginning, God has given men rules to live by, rules that, if they followed would make them happy and successful. But other things got in the way. In the Garden of Eden, they were persuaded if they liked something, although it was forbidden, they should take it. We all know what happened because of that.

It appears that many today are following in the footsteps of the Israelites. I can remember a time when my brethren insisted on a “thus sayeth the Lord” before they would do anything. These days, it appears that many really are not careful about what the Lord says in His word. They want to do something so they just go ahead and do it because they think it is a good idea. There is only one problem with that idea: they ignore the consequences, and that is going to be greater than Israel, they will lose eternal life because they failed to listen.



The goal in Christian communication is not just clarity. The goal is not just to be understood. The goal is not just to be truthful. The goal is to be appropriate, encouraging, and building up others based on the needs of the other person.

GOD’S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

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|--------------------------|-------------------|
| God’s Grace | — Ephesians 2:8 |
| Christ’s Blood | — Romans 5:9 |
| The Holy Spirit’s Gospel | — Romans 1:16 |
| Sinner’s Faith | — Acts 16:31 |
| Sinner’s Repentance | — Luke 13:3,5 |
| Sinner’s Confession | — Romans 10:10 |
| Sinner’s Baptism | — 1 Peter 3:21 |
| Christian’s Work | — James 2:24 |
| Christian’s Hope | — Romans 8:24 |
| Christian’s Endurance | — Revelation 2:10 |

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. - Your Work Matters to God

P.M. - When Religion Has No Authority

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Have you earned the right to offend?

By Jack Wilkie



Bachelor's Button

“The church is just too judgmental,” they say. “Doesn’t the Bible say ‘Do not judge lest you be judged’”? The most popular Bible verses in recent years have completely flipped from what they once were. Rather than verses like John 3:16 which tell of the love of Jesus Christ, the most well-known Bible sayings now are used by non-Christians to preach a postmodernist “tolerance.” “Do not judge lest you be judged” comes to mind, in particular. Of course, we seem to have started citing certain verses in response, verses like “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you” and “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.”

We remind ourselves that the Gospel is offensive, and that if we speak out in defense of the truth (even in a loving way – 1 Corinthians 13:1) we’re going to make enemies of those in the world, even including friends and family. While such Scriptures are true and we’re right to comfort ourselves with the reminder that people hate God’s Word and not us, we can sometimes be guilty of missing a step.

Take a look at the church’s beginning in Acts 2, where we have the first examples of what our first century brethren did and how they were perceived in their society. We see that they were dedicated to the Apostles’ teaching, that they were in constant fellowship, and that they were serving and caring for one another by giving of themselves any time a need arose. While they were eventually persecuted for preaching (starting in chapter 4), before that happened Luke wrote down a key phrase that we would do well to note. Acts 2:47 says that the early church was “having favor with all the people.”

Among the crowds and with the people around them, the church was looked at in a positive light. The lesson we should take from this is that though the Bible’s teachings may be offensive to those who refuse to consider them, the church’s loving actions should be their first impression of the church among the people in our communities. While I believe in holding fast to the truth, I also believe in listening to criticism and seeing what we can take from it. When people say that we come off as too judgmental, it seems to be equally due to the Bible’s challenging teachings and our lack of loving action backing up what we say.

We claim it’s our goal to teach the truth in love, but that’s where we can be mis-



taken. You have to earn the right to teach the truth in love. How? By showing love! In the same section where Jesus assured the apostles that the world would hate them because of them, He also reminded them that it was their love that would distinguish them from the world. As of right now, the most noticeable factor separating us from the world is the divisive truth of the Gospel and not our love for each other and for the world. As Tim Chester and Steve Timmis insightfully point out in their book Total Church, “We need to make people want Christianity to be true. Then we might be able to persuade them that it is.” The church’s love is what makes the hard teachings of Christianity so much easier to accept. If people are still going to disagree with us, at least we can make them say, “Man, I don’t agree with those Christians, but they sure do love people.” Jesus met with great opposition throughout His ministry, but it could never be said that He didn’t love people. May the same be true of us.

“Love your neighbor” is a hard enough to command to follow in today’s busy, hectic life where we’re all carefully guarded about how we come across to each other. Love your enemy? That’s even harder. What about loving people enough to feed them, clothe them, visit them, or invite them in (Matthew 25:35-36)? What about loving our fellow Christians enough to get deeply involved in each other’s lives and invite others in to that loving family? What about loving people enough to leave our comfort zones and preach the love and hope of the Gospel to them and not just that which seems culturally relevant (be it the Bible’s teaching on homosexuality, abortion, or anything else)?

Yes, if we preach that which challenges the world’s lifestyle, we’ll offend people. It’s just a natural result. If we show Christ’s love the way we should first, though, we’ll glorify God and shine His light to people who truly need it and maybe we’ll find open doors and softer hearts.

Announcements

1. Brother David will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Wednesday evening class, “Introduction to Romans”. Be prepared - bring your notebook!

~ On the Prayer list

Kerry Johnson - for getting over the flu. He is still ill!

Rosemarie Johnson - for less pain and illness.

Jordan Johnson - for getting well and over the flu.

Norma Decker - relief from her pain and COPD.

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

The church at Alisal - for growth, sowing the Word, and results from our Maya theater Advertisement.

Have a blessed week!