

GETTING LOST

Ed Smithson

When you think about it, there are several ways to get lost. A person can go into woods with which he is unfamiliar, without a compass or anything and become lost before he knows it. It is also possible to get lost on the highway. One forgets the direction he is going, especially in the dark of night.

But what I am thinking about now is church members getting lost by purposely attending large congregations, keeping quiet and not being noticed or used: they get lost and have no responsibility. They attend rather regularly but take no responsibility. They are what we call lost, where service in the church is concerned.

Then a person can really get lost, lose his soul for eternity, because he takes on himself no responsibility to read the Bible, attend church service and listen to the gospel being preached. Paul writes to the Hebrews "Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." (Heb.4:7)

In times past folks were busy with simple things and many reserved the Lord's Day to go to worship and be involved with the church. In today's society there are so many things that clamor for our attention and we live in cities, the things created to capture our attention and thus take up our time; it is limitless. So many people, rather than make the decision to "walk the narrow way," "Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it." (Matt. 7:13-14), they decide to use the time for themselves.

To do the work of the Lord, to spend time in Bible reading and doing good is too much for some. Why bother with something that will restrict our activities in the world? Do not think about judgment and what will be the end of it. "And he that sitteth on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he saith, Write: for these words are faithful and true. And he said unto me, They are come to pass. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit these things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." (Rev. 21:5-8)

Are YOU in the book?
(the book of Life,that is)

March 11, 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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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. - Can a Sinner Know at the Exact Time...

P.M. - What Happens when we Die?

.....
"Going to Heaven?"

by Steve Ridgell



Going to heaven is a more frequent topic of conversation than you might think. Of course, it comes up among church goers, but I hear it at funerals and in hospitals from people who are not regular church goers. It comes up in casual conversations with people who find out I am a believer. I have discovered that that for most people there are three basic views about going to heaven.

I wish I were going to heaven.

This idea is usually expressed by someone who thinks they are not good enough for heaven. They have done things or are doing things, which they assume disqualify them from eternal life. But God is able to make wishes come true. Jesus died for your sins. All of your sins. You can die with him and have a new life. You can be forgiven. You can live forever in heaven.

I want to go to heaven, but...

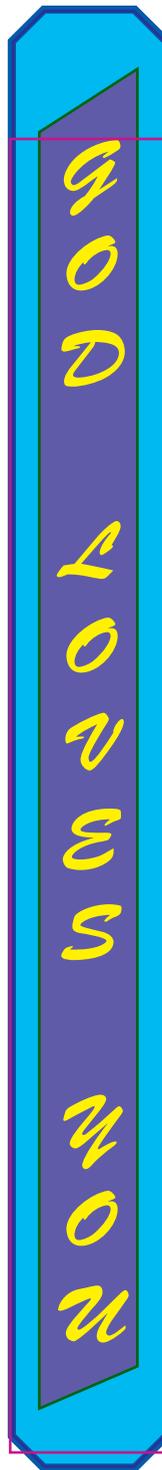
This comment is often made by someone who acknowledges that heaven would be a good place to end up, but they are not sure what to do about it. It may be a matter of desire. How badly do they want to go to heaven? Jesus is the way to God. You surrender your will to follow the will of Jesus. You deny yourself in order to follow him. And that is a hard road that most people will not choose. But if you want to go to heaven, it is possible. You just have to decide if you really want to be there.

I will go to heaven.

Getting to heaven is not a moving target you can never be sure you hit. It is not based on some mysterious point system where you get points for doing good things and lose points for doing bad things. Getting to heaven is based on believing in Jesus. He is the way to God. And you can know you are going to be there forever.

Jesus said:

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him (John 14:6-8).



The Art of Living

By Ron Bartanen

Are you an artist? Usually we think of art in terms of categories such as visual (painting, sculpturing, etc.) and musical. However, the word "art" is defined first as: "a skill acquired by experience, study, or observation (the art of making friends)" (Merriam Webster's Deluxe Dictionary). All forms of art have an innate, God-given base, but must be developed. Life itself is a precious gift from God, but the fulfillment of life into the purpose for which God granted life is in our hands. To illustrate: it is sometimes said of a painter or musician, "He was born with that talent," yet unless the talent is put to use in a meaningful way, it will be wasted. Likewise, we may think of life itself as an art. We have all received it, but how we use it will be a deciding factor in its outcome.

The art of living must begin with recognition that life is a precious gift from God. The tragedy is that few recognize the value and purpose of their lives, and, as a consequence, find their lives inadequate and unfulfilled. God, who has created us, has provided in His word, the Bible, sufficient direction for attaining that fulfillment of life which all crave. The status of life is not to be found in comfortable living conditions, or in material wealth. The Bible offers a more satisfactory answer.

It is impossible to single out one single scripture that would fully provide this instruction. However, the admonitions of Philippians 4:1, 4-9 would be a choice selection. Pick up your Bible and read the characteristics that will help make your life an adequate, fulfilled life. We might summarize it by saying that in Christ there is to be found adequate love, joy, gentleness, security, inspiration and peace.

Many have mastered the art of existing, but few the art of truly living. The art of living may well be the most seldom learned of all the arts. It doesn't come naturally. It begins when one is "born again (from above)...of water and the Spirit" (John 3:3, 5) in a commitment of life to God. That's the beginning point. Continued adherence to Christ and His word will then make you a master of the art of living. Jesus indicated as much when He declared, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Announcements

1. Brother Paul will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.

~ On the Prayer list

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

Charles Barry - for strength to carry on his good work.

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.