

## TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

(part one of three)

Ed Smithson

In recent weeks I have heard of a well-known preacher give lessons about “fighting error,” and staying with the Bible. That is the first time I have heard such things in a long time.

Over the last seventy-five years we have flirted with denominationalism, romanced the para church organizations and put the church in position of supporting things not connected with the church.

The Bible tells that “Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness” (2Tim. 3:16) That simply means we are furnished everything by God and we do not need anything else. To add to what He has revealed is to suggest He did not know enough to give the instruction we need, and who is ready to suggest that?

It appears some folks think they know better than God, when they form organizations for the church to support when we already have everything we need. In the Old Testament the penalty for disobeying God’s orders was much more severe than in this life. In the New Testament it will be ever more severe because we will lose our souls in eternity.

What is it that makes us want to do more or less than God? First, it is arrogance! We feel we know better so we leave the word to do things on our own. Second, we think we are in a different generation, a different world and we know some things that He did not.

There are a lot of unhappy people in this world. Most of them have not the slightest idea of why. When Joshua took over the reins of leadership of Israel from Moses, God said to him, “turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest have good success whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate thereon day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (Jo. 1:7-8) (More next time.)

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**SOMETHING GOOD! WE NOW HAVE AVAILBLE VHS TAPES AND DVD'S OF "SEARCH FOR THE LORD'S WAY" WITH MACK LYON. EACH MONTHS SERMONS ON ONE VIEWABLE TAPE OR DVD. WE ALSO HAVE IN OUR LIBRARY RECORDED SERMONS AND DVD'S "PREACHING THE GOSPEL" BY JAMES WATKINS AND THE FULL SET OF FIVE JULE MILLER VIDEO TAPES FOR YOUR PERSONAL EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS. IN ADDITION TO THESE WE NOW HAVE A SERIES OF LESSONS ON MARRIAGE - ALL ON DVD. ALSO, WE HAVE ADDED A NUMBER OF BOOKS BY STEVE DIGGS ON CHRISTIAN LIVING AS WELL AS A 5 C-D SET OF STEVE'S SEMINAR "RETOOLED AND REFUELED."**

April 8, 2018

## church of Christ at Alisal

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*Sunrise at Bora Bora  
March 20, 2018*

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. - Brother Jordan**

**P.M. - Brother Paul**



Jordan



### IF THERE IS NO HELL, CAN THERE BE A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN?

Raymond Elliott

Now, think with me. If there is no hell, then I cannot believe in the Bible because hell is mentioned in the Holy Scriptures as being a real place. And, if the Bible is not reliable, God did not create the heavens and the earth as claimed in Genesis chapter one. Neither can I believe in God even though the Bible states that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Timothy 3:16). Additionally, I cannot believe in the Holy Spirit regardless of what the apostle Peter wrote, "knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2:20, 21). Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, that, what he had received and spoke was from the "Holy Spirit."

And, if there is not a place called hell, how can I believe in the one who mentioned hell more than any person in the Bible. Did you know that the word "hell" (Greek, Gehenna) is found 12 times in the New Testament? In the book of James, we read that the "tongue is set on fire by hell" (3:6). Eleven times you will find the word "hell" mentioned in the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke. You will find expressions like, "hell fire" (Mt.5:22); "eternal fire" (Mt.18:8); "son of hell" (Mt. 23:15). Do you know who used the word "hell" and these expressions? It was Jesus Christ! If there is not a place called hell, how can I believe in the person called Jesus Christ, because He often spoke of that terrible place.

If we do not believe in Jesus Christ when He spoke about hell, how can we trust Him when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this"(John 11:25, 26)? Or, the beautiful and precious promise He made in John 14:1-3: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so,I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." And then, there is that final and grand invitation extended to all who have believed in Him and have given their lives to Him: "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared fo you from the foundation of the world" (Mt. 25:34).

GOOD MORNING

My friends, can you not understand the fatal and final results of such illogical reasoning by rejecting the biblical truth that teaches there is a terrible place call hell? But thanks be to God that He is, that the Holy Spirit inspired the writings of the Holy Scriptures; and, Jesus Christ died for our sins so we could be saved. And, that by His grace, we have the precious promise of being with all the redeemed in heaven when this life is over. God does not desire that anyone should die and go to the awful place call hell (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

*"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord"*

(2 Corinthians 3:18).

Christ was and I must be:

Humble (Phil 2:3-11; James 4:6)

Forgiving (Luke 23:24; Mark 11:25)

Zealous (John 9:4; 2:17; Titus 2:14)

Prayerful (Mark 1:35; 1 Thess 5:17)

Compassionate (John 11:35; Romans 12:15)

Unretaliatory (Matt. 26:59ff; Rom. 12:17-21)

Submissive (Luke 22:42; Matt. 6:10)

Serving (Matt. 20:28; Matt. 20:26-27)

Passionate (Luke 19:41; Romans 9:1-3)

Giving (Matt. 20:28; Luke 6:38)

With Paul may we affirm, "So now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:20,21). Then, we can sing, and really mean it, "I want to be more like Jesus."

*Wendell Winkler*

## Announcements

1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. The Romans Class returns this coming Wednesday evening.

~ On the Prayer list

**Please make an effort and take the time to pray for each of the members here at the Alisal congregation.**

**The church at Alisal - for growth, sowing the Word, and all our works here in Salinas.**

**Have a blessed week!**