

**IS IT TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE**

Part 6  
Ed Smithson

Jesus said, "Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven." (Mat. 10:32) "because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved: for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10:9-10)

When a person confesses Jesus Christ before men, they leave all others behind. They say they are going to follow Jesus, his life, his example and think like he thinks and that means leaving the cares of this world, with all its riches and delights behind them and follow Jesus always.

But somewhere along the line some of them slip. We say they were never really converted, which is not always true. Sometimes they get carried away with things that are not conducive to living for Him, they forget what they felt when they first acknowledged Him as their Savior. One of the reasons the Hebrew writer said it is sometimes "impossible to renew them again unto repentance" (Heb 6:6)

When we confess the name of Jesus before men we are saying to the world, "this is my Savior, this is my King, this is my Helper and I will always love Him and serve Him to the end."

There was a young man who fell deeply in love with a girl. When that happened, he believed it would be that way forever. After a while, another caught his eye. The girl was deeply grieved because of it. Over a period of time she tried everything she could think of to get him to notice her again, to no avail.

Once a Christian declares his love for his Savior and looking around, finds other things that are attractive, it is most difficult to get his attention to rest on his first love for Him. Whatever is done to try to interest him is too little, too late. He is gone, and lost.

(More next time.)



**A Lesson In Humility**

By Rob Albright

In John 13:1-17 we notice Jesus washing the disciples feet and He did this to teach a lesson on humility. We know that at least two of the disciples were thinking about how they could obtain first place in the kingdom. The other disciples found out what was on their mind and became indignant (Matthew 20:20-28) with the two brothers.

The selfish thinking needed to be dealt with. Jesus, in this act of humility, displayed a lesson they needed to learn and we need to learn, as fellow disciples of Jesus.

Jesus taught them (and us) that true greatness is not about being served, but of serving. Jesus cared about others and served others by feeding the hungry, healing the sick, lame, and blind. When Jesus gave His life for the sins of the world, He displayed humility.

After He washed the disciples feet, he said, "I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done for you" (John 13:15). The washing of feet was not an act of worship but it was a demonstration of the attitude we need to have with one another.

We have to be careful to not be so filled with pride that we cannot do a menial task. If the King of the kingdom could wash feet, then no service to others should be beneath our dignity.

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**church of Christ at Alisal**

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*Yes, it's an Orchid!*

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. - Worship - Singing**

**P.M. - Number Our Days**

**Losing Our First Love**

By David R. Ferguson



As a small child growing up in rural central Illinois, one of my favorite memories was of those Sunday mornings when our family of seven children loaded up in our father's station wagon and he would drive us and our mother to visit one of our sister congregations in the area. Lower Ash Grove Church of Christ was one of those congregations we visited. While driving through the countryside enjoying the beautiful fall colors one recent afternoon, I found myself at the lane leading to Lower Ash Grove Cemetery. I pulled into the lane and I have to admit, I was quite saddened at the spectacle of the old abandoned church building which I saw greet me so forlornly as it stood under the shadows of the trees.

I know the church isn't the building. The Bible makes it quite clear that the church is comprised of the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 1:24), which is made up of individuals who are immersed, obedient believers (Acts 2:38) whom God adds to His church (Acts 2:47). But I was saddened, nonetheless, by seeing this abandoned building where a once vibrant congregation of the Lord's people used to assemble.

I wish I could say that what has happened with the Lower Ash Grove Church of Christ is the exception for those congregations we used to attend, but unfortunately, it has become the rule. Even the congregation we attended as members when I was a small child long ago abandoned "the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 1:3 [NAS]), and has gone the way of apostasy.

I wish I knew why this happened here in central Illinois, but maybe the answer is found in what Jesus says to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:3-5 [NAS]: "I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place - unless you repent."

Maybe the reason so many of those congregations from my youth are now gone is



because they got so caught up in "marking" those whom they felt were false teachers that they lost their first love, like Ephesus, and never repented.

It is true we need to keep the church pure, but as Jesus pointed out to the church at Ephesus, it becomes dangerous if that becomes our primary goal. When our focus is on the deeds of evil men, rather than on our first love, we tend to forget to evangelize the lost around us, which is what our first love, Jesus Christ, demands.

If I had but one wish, I think it would be to be able to go back in time to the 1960s and 1970s and show these photos of what has become of those once thriving congregations in central Illinois to those brothers and sisters in Christ. Maybe then they would have repented of their ways, and returned again to their first love. But since that isn't going to happen, I pray to God that I will not become so focused on the evil men of today that I, too, forget my first love to the point that the Lord will have to remove His lampstand yet again.



When a loser makes a mistake, he says, "It wasn't my fault."

When a winner makes a mistake, he says, "I was wrong."

A loser says, "I'm not as bad as a lot of other people."

A winner says, "I'm not as good as I ought to be."

A loser says, "It may be possible, but it's too difficult."

A winner says, "It may be difficult, but it's possible."

A loser tries to tear down those who are superior to him.

A winner learns from those who are superior to him.

A loser makes promises.

A winner makes commitments.

Are you a winner or loser when it comes to Christianity?

### Announcements

1. Brother Paul will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Romans Class this coming Wednesday evening. Chapter 2 part 4.
3. A big friendly Welcome to all our visitors

~ On the Prayer list ~

**All our Families here at Alisal - for spiritual growth and good health.**  
**David Ryal - preacher at Morro Bay for recovery from his Liver/Kidney transplant operation. (he is doing better)**

**Have a blessed week!**