

## GODLY FATHERS

Raymond Elliott

One of life's greatest blessings and challenges for a man is fatherhood. This relationship involves the greatest joys and demands the best one has to give and often will include many sorrows. A godly father loves his wife and is loyal to his marital vows (Ephesians 5:25). He desires the best for his children. A father is industrious. He labors to provide for his family and the needs of others who lack the material things of life (I Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 4:28).

The greatest contribution a father can make to his family is leadership in spiritual matters. In every age, the head of the family has been required of God to provide the proper direction regarding religious training. Modern fathers are most likely to leave this responsibility to the wife and mother. However, Paul exhorted: "And you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). It is a tremendous requirement to make sure one's children are taught of God but the rewards are everlasting. A Christian father may not be able to give very much materially to his children but the legacy of having a father who loved his family and the Lord, surpasses everything else. The greatest inheritance a Christian father can leave is one that is rich in faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We should never underestimate the love that a father possesses in his heart for his children. His emotions may not be as noticeable as the mother; yet, the feelings are just as deep. Most fathers would give their lives on behalf of their families. Their hearts are filled with deep gratitude when they witness their children succeeding in life. The Christian father rejoices greatly when his children obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. My father will be remembered for being a fine Christian gentleman. Also, the legacy of having a good name has meant more to me than all the riches of this world. It was the wise man of old who wrote: "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold" (Proverbs 22:1); and, "A good name is better than precious ointment..." (Ecclesiastes 7:1).

Godly fathers are rare in this modern society. But, we should always be thankful for the ones who are. Truly, you are blessed indeed if you have/had a Christian father who placed Christ first in his life. His influence in your life and even in the lives of his grandchildren will be felt for many years to come. Say, have you hugged your father recently?

DEAR OLD DAD

"So often we praise our mothers here and merit all their ways.  
We so ignore the fact that Dad he, too, deserves some praise.  
Who strives to earn the daily bread? To keep all healthy—glad?  
Isn't he that gets so little praise and that is dear old Dad.  
To praise our mothers, that is good (this they may deserve)  
Yet why so slack in praising Dad and keep in reserve?  
Let's measure their qualities—give merits, praise, when due.  
Start pinning laurels on your Dad, He's done a lot for you."  
(Eva Gilbert Shaver)

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## church of Christ at Alisal

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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!



## This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - The Plight of the Sinner

P.M. - Religious Indecision

The Joy of Forgiveness

Logan Summers



Forgiveness is easy to understand, but not so easy to describe. Most people forgive each other when one is wronged. To cease feeling resentment for wrongs and offenses we will use words and phrases such as “don’t worry about it” or “it’s okay.” We are expressing that what was done against us no longer has a negative effect on what we think of the other. However, there is something so completely unique about the forgiveness that God gives through His Son that it adds a depth that can never be fully measured.

Mark 2:1-12 bears out the uniqueness of God’s forgiveness. At this point in Mark’s account, Jesus has already healed a man with an unclean spirit (Mark 1:21-28), Simon’s mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-31), and all in Capernaum who were sick and demon-possessed (Mark. 1:32-34), and continuing on throughout Galilee, He would preach and cast out demons (Mark 1:38-39). This is the kind of information that was being spread throughout all the region around Galilee (Mark 1:28, 45; cf. 2:1). When Jesus notices the faith of these men, to lower their friend down close to Him, a major shift occurs. With the man laying there unable to move, Jesus’ first reaction is a statement that so shocks the crowd that the scribes would call this miracle worker a blasphemer (v. 6). “Son, your sins are forgiven you” (Mark 2:5 NKJV). Jesus then showed that he was not “all talk” by healing the paralytic. The result - all were amazed and glorified God (v. 9-12). Jesus emphasized that which was most important and clearly demonstrated His reason for being on earth (cf. Mark 10:45). That man went away rejoicing, for his ability to walk again for sure, but even more, his sins were forgiven by God (cf. Luke 5:25). Understanding the results and blessings of God’s forgiveness paints for us a clear and beautiful picture of what it really means!

**A Restored Relationship.** All sin is a failure to love God and often one another (Mark 12:30-31). Isaiah 59:1-2 declares that the sin of God’s people had caused a separation between them and God. From Genesis 3 onward, a broken relationship between God and man has existed. We have all failed and none deserve to be in the presence of the all-holy, perfectly pure, and righteous God (Rom. 3:23, 6:23). However, the same verses that declare our worthy sentence declares our blessed hope.

Paul proclaims, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Eph. 1:7). Hebrews 10:16-22 declares that sin will be remembered no more, that we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, and draw near. There is a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God because of Jesus, our blest Redeemer!

**An Abundant Peace.** Regret, disappointment, sleeplessness, anxiety, and depression are so abundant in our society that most ads seem to be about the latest pill to take those feelings away. Instead of repentance the world preaches “acceptance” of who you are, with the idea that you will never and can never change. Accept who you are (no matter how much it ruins your life) and enjoy it! It is no wonder there are so many people looking for peace! But it is not found in a prescription or at the bottom of the bottle. The reality is, sin destroys peace. In fact, there is no peace for the wicked (Isa. 48:22; 57:21), but for the contrite and lowly spirit, the one who mourns because of sin, shall be comforted (Matt. 5:4). Freedom from guilt comes through the forgiveness of God. A rest and a peace that passes understanding is available to all who would look to Him (Phil. 4:7; Matt. 11:28).

**A Continuous Assurance.** John writing to Christians says, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). But for the honest, who confess sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (v. 9). The power in the blood does not stop with baptism (v. 7)! For those who are walking in the light, a continuous forgiveness from God occurs.

A continued relationship, a never-ending peace, and a bright hope for the future awaits us because of God’s forgiveness. His is truly unique.

PLEASE BE REMINDED TO TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES WHILE IN THE BUILDING AND PLEASE, DO NOT EAT CANDY, FOOD OR DRINK IN THE AUDITORIUM. ALSO, FEEL FREE TO TAKE AN EXTRA BULLETIN TO SHARE WITH A NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND.

## Announcements

1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Study of the book of Romans Chapter 3 #3.

~ On the Prayer list ~  
**All our Families here at Alisal - for spiritual growth and good health.**  
**Rose Johnson - for rapid recovery from her gall bladder surgery and better health**  
**Kerry, Beverly, Norma - For peace of mind and better health.**  
**Path Star - for her hip-replacement surgery and healing.**