

cont'd from front...

death. Thus Paul would draw the chapter to a close by reminding us that our fruit is to be “unto sanctification, and the end eternal life” (vs. 22). The fruit of the Spirit, reflected in the life of the Christian, is unto sanctification. It achieves a worthwhile end. And what is the “end”? It is “eternal life.”

Here is the “end” by which all things should be measured. What is the “later end” of the profligate life? Where does it lead? What is the end of hedonism, alcoholism, materialism, sensualism, secularism, and the whole gamut of “isms”? Do these things better the human life? Do they provide happiness, peace, and joy? And is there any hope in the philosophies of men? The true value of any “way of life” is measured by where it leads those who follow its path. The alternative to serving righteous is serving sin. In fact, that is the only alternative, for if one refuses to serve righteousness he, by default, is serving self, sin and Satan.

**CONCLUSION**

Someone once noted, “To be in Christ is the source of the Christian’s life; to be like Christ is the sum of His excellence; to be with Christ is the fullness of His joy.” Can you think of a better way to summarize the message presented in Romans chapter six.



**The Profitless Preached Word**

By Mike Riley

The Hebrew writer tells us: “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them; but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it” (Hebrews 4:20).

Friends, what good is it to have the Bible read to us if we are not going to obey what we hear? What good is it to have the teacher expound upon the elementary principles of the doctrine of Christ if we are not going to abide by them? What good is it listening to preaching every Sunday, if we are not determined to follow the truth of what is being preached? What good is it to own three different copies of the word of God if we are not going to apply all that knowledge to our lives?

Now, friends, the answer to all those questions is “nothing!” Hearing alone is worthless (Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22-27). However, let us not be confused. Preaching is powerful (1 Corinthians 1:18,21). Preaching is not powerful because the preacher is powerful, Yea contrariwise! Preaching is powerful because of the content of what is preached. The power is in the gospel (Romans 1:16). Preaching simply serves as a vehicle to transport that power. Praise the power — not the vehicle!

Friends, the gospel can be preached in its purity and completeness and sinners still go home unsaved. Let us remember Matthew 23:37 and how the Lord wept over disobedient Jerusalem.

Today, will the preached Word profit because we’ve determined to obey it? Or will the preached Word not be heard with faith and souls go home unconverted and unconvinced? Rest assured that we will answer this question, and then give account of “how” we answer!

June 24, 2018

# church of Christ at Alisal

67 Eucalyptus Drive  
Salinas, California 93905-2728  
(831) 424-9800 or 726-1319  
Paul McCollum, preacher  
pulpitpaul@razzolink.com



Oak Leaf Hydrangea

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. - Perils of Pride

P.M. - Pure in Heart

Dead To Sin, Alive To God

Tom Wacaster



Jordan



Kerry

A key verse in the last half of Romans chapter 6 contains the following words: Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Rom. 6:13).

The wonderful grace of God had been discussed in the previous chapter. Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound! That would raise an interesting question: "Ok, Paul! If grace abounds exceedingly when we sin, then should we go on sinning so that grace can go on abounding?" Paul would address that very question in Romans 16:15, and answer with a strong and bold, "God forbid!"

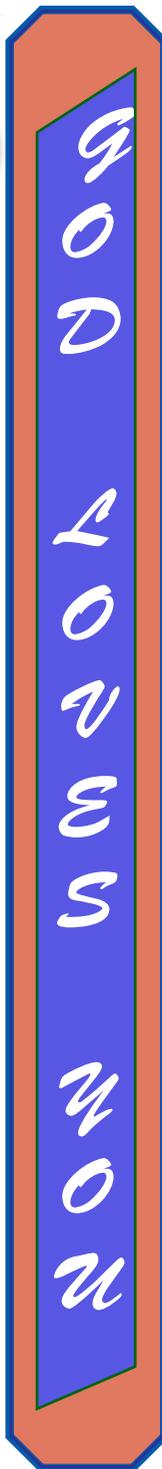
### TWO CHOICES

The apostle gives a universally recognized fact: "Know ye not that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey?" (Rom. 6:16). When men obey a certain master, they are the slaves to that master. That same axiom applies when it comes to the spiritual man. If you habitually commit sin, willfully going in that direction, you are, in fact, serving sin. You have thus become the bondservant of sin. One can be servants of (1) sin unto death, or (2) obedience unto righteousness. Reese's illustration gets to the point: In the early verses of chapter 6, the point was that a master can get slaving out of a slave only until the slave dies; once the slave has died, the master can go on giving orders to the corpse until he is blue in the face, but the corpse will pay no attention nor give any response. ... Now the thing contemplated is that the slave has become someone else's property. When this happens, the former master has no further authority over the slave, nor can he get any more service out of his former slave. The slave must give all his time and energies to his new owner (Reese, 265).

Consider at least three things relative to our choices. First, it is "either...or." There is no middle ground. Second, we note that Paul places all men into one of two categories. They are either serving sin, or they are being obedient to the Father. Finally, our actions have consequences, thus naturally leading into our next point.

### TWO CONSEQUENCES

Two gates open the way to one of two roads; and each road leads to one or the



other of two eternal destinies (Matt. 7:13-14). The two choices represent the two gates, and the two roads are the focus of this our second point. One road is a life of sin; the other a life of righteousness. I see no other conclusion, nor do I see some kind of a back-road that takes the scenic route to hell. "The way of the transgressor is hard" (Pro. 15:13).

The road of sin is spiritual death and separation from God. If continued therein the wages will be paid at the end of the journey fitting to the journey itself. If we are obedient we will obtain righteousness, or justification in the sight of God. Moses Lard held the view that "righteousness" here speaks of obedience rather than the "state" of righteousness attained by obedience. But it seems to me that Paul is arguing that righteousness IS attained by obedience. That is the gist of this letter on the very surface of it. But while the English word "righteousness" means "right living," the Greek has the idea of "equity, justification: righteousness" (Strong, E-Sword).

In the context, the contrast is between the consequence of sin as compared with that of obedience. The former is "unto" death, the later "unto" righteousness. While Paul had in mind the state of justification, we cannot help but think he never lost sight of the life of righteousness demanded by that state of justification. But please notice carefully that the consequence of either of the choices we make is played out in this life as well as what each shall receive at the end of the journey. If we choose to serve sin, then our decisions will reflect our submission to sin. Chose to serve God, and we "love life and see good days" (1 Pet. 3:10).

### TWO COSTS

The two costs are expressed in the words "gift" and "wages" (Rom. 6:23). The "gift" of serving righteousness is eternal life through Jesus Christ; the "wages" of sin is

*(continued on back page...)*

*Singing and prayer this coming Wednesday evening -  
Let's all prepare ourselves for this great opportunity!*

## Announcements

1. Brother Paul will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Be prepared and ready, men!

~ On the Prayer list ~

**All our Families here at Alisal** - for spiritual growth and good health.  
**Rose Johnson & Kerry, Beverly. Norma** - For peace of mind, healing, and better health.  
**Judy McCollum** - and her visit to Oregon & safe return.  
**Path Star** - for her hip-replacement surgery healing. She is improving and will be back to her new normal in about a year.

**Have a blessed week!**