

## IS IT TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE?

Part 8

Ed Smithson

The fundamentals of being a Christian we know, or we should. Paul said "...how can they hear without a preacher." (Rom. 10:14) Later he said, "So belief cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Rom. 10:17) Then repentance, "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem." (Luke 24:47) Confession is also a must. (Matt. 10:32) Then one is baptized to obey the Lord, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27)

But there is more to it than that. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life." (Rev. 2:10) Being baptized into Christ is just the beginning. A life lived for Him and in His service is what comes after.

One of the problems we have is that the basics are not emphasized enough. You remember what God said and why to the Israelites? "Now this is the commandment, the statutes, and the ordinances, which Jehovah your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deut. 4)

The first responsibility is for the parents to teach their children then the church has to do its part. You remember that the Bible says it is most difficult for one who has learned then fallen away, to renew them to repentance. We have neglected, both parents and the church, to remind our children and our people the importance of fundamentals. So much so that many have fallen away never to be recovered and others just have never known the emphasis to be placed on fundamentals.

Because of this, perhaps "it is too little, too late." But I fear, lest we make the effort, we will be weighed in the balance and found wanting at the judgment. That is surely not what we want, but unless we give it our very best, it may turn out that way.



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too." A mature faith is demonstrated in the fact that one will not only include others in their prayers, but one will pour out heart and soul on behalf of others. It was said that Epaphras was "always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God" (Col. 4:12). When we pray, do we "struggle" on behalf of others?

**Be Spiritually Minded.** It is righteous and good to pray for the physically sick...but our prayers for others must not be limited to this! We must pray for Gospel opportunities! We must pray for open doors for the word to be spread! We must pray for the sin-sick and lost.

July 1 2018

## church of Christ at Alisal

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*Mountain  
Gorilla*

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.

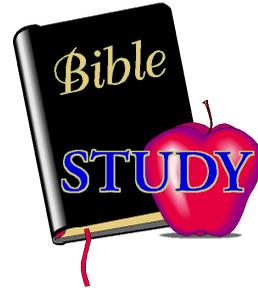
# Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!



## This Week's Sermon's

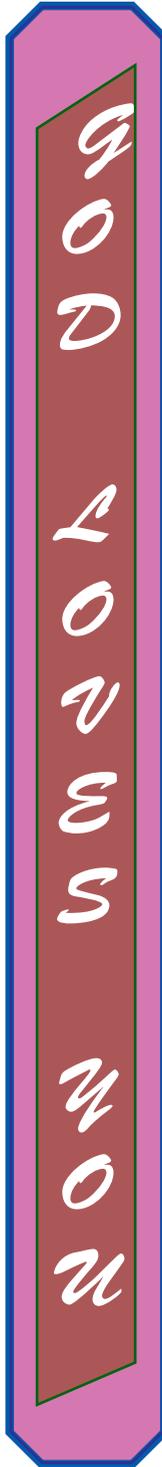
A.M. - Angels  
P.M. - Questions From a  
Denominational Friend



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**THE HONEYBEE AND THE BUZZARD**  
Raymond Elliott

Surely we all have some knowledge regarding this insect and this fowl. Both have been placed here on this earth for different purposes as designed by the Creator, God Almighty. While their functions are vital, they are radical in contrast. The buzzard is rather despised by the human family. We esteem this bird as being unsightly in appearance and undesirable because of its work, the devouring of dead carcasses. Yet, in the balance of nature, this scavenger has a rightful place in our environment. The honeybee, on the other hand, is well thought of and respected. While we dislike the sting of such a small insect, we do appreciate the delicious honey that it makes for us. The bee can be seen visiting the beautiful flowers and various blooms in the vegetative kingdom. No wonder the honey that this bee makes is so sweet.

Strangely enough, the buzzard and the honeybee remind us of the various attitudes and dispositions found in different people. First of all, some folk enjoy dwelling on the ungodly, the gossip, the hearsay, the ugly, the bad, the filthy, the hurtful, and the immoral. They seem to get their kicks over telling or hearing a good piece of juicy slander. And, the worse it stinks, the better they like it. This old world is filled with individuals who love filthiness. The Bible refers to people who "speak foolishness" and whose "heart will work iniquity" (Isaiah 32:6). Paul writes of the unrighteous in this manner, "Their throat is an open tomb;; With their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness" (Romans 3:13, 14). Their ultimate end is eternal perdition, for Jesus said in Matthew 12:36, 37, "But I say to you that every idle word men shall speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." We are grateful however that there are many Christians who love the good and the beautiful things of life. They think upon that which is pure, honest, just, true, lovely, and of good report (Philippians 4:8). They feed upon the word of God that is "Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Psalms 19:10). They know that "Pleasant words are like honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul, and health to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24).



They "love life" and endeavor to "see good days"; therefore, they "refrain his tongue from evil" (I Peter 3:10).

The question therefore is, "To be or not to be". That is, are you soaring over dead carcasses and seeking the corrupt; or, are you feasting upon the beautiful and the good? Let us all 'be' (live) like the honeybee and not the buzzard!

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**Growing in Prayer**

Bart Warren

Most of us would like to be "better" at prayer. We'd like to do it more often and with more power. Just like the disciples of Jesus who came to Him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1), we long for divine guidance in this area.

One of the great pertinent passages to consult is Colossians 4:2-4: "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak."

**Continue Steadfast.** Don't give up! Be persistent! Don't quit!

**Be Watchful.** Be specific in requests, petitions, confessions, and admissions of struggles. Vague generalities simply are not good enough. This becomes extremely helpful in our ongoing quest to avoid temptation. (cf. Mark 14:38)

**Be Thankful.** Giving careful thought to the blessings that have come our way helps us to avoid being selfish. (cf. James 4:1-3)

**Think of Others.** Paul said, in effect, "In addition to praying for yourself, pray for us

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### Announcements

1. Brother David will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Wednesday - Study of the book of Romans Chapter 3 #4.

~ On the Prayer list ~

**All our Families here at Alisal - for spiritual growth and good health.**  
**Norma, Rose & Kerry, Beverly-** For peace of mind, healing, and better health.  
**Judy McCollum -** and her visit to Oregon & safe return on Monday.  
**David from Morro Bay -** for healing and good health.  
**Path Star -** for hip replacement surgery and now a cracked femur.

**Have a blessed week!**