

July 22 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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Barbara's Alaskan Rose



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)

'HEAR THE WORD'

Ed Smithson

There is a lot of emotion put on everything these days, and this is especially true in religion. Some contend that if you do not have emotion, you do not have religion. Those who read the word know this is not entirely true. While I do not deny there is emotion in religion, I declare it is more than that.

Take a look at this statement, "...hear the word of the Lord" or one of its variations is to be found 70 times in the Old Testament. While not as much emphasis is put on it in the New, one cannot read it without knowing the word is very important.

Why should we "hear the word of the Lord?" Because without the word, if we do not listen to it, we cannot know what the Lord has in mind and wants us to do. Why is this true? Because His words are written in this book and without it we have no words or rules to guide us.

Hear what the apostle Paul says, "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17) How would one know what to do if he did not have the scripture and the scripture is "the word of the Lord"?

The scriptures are inspired of God, to be used for teaching, reproof and correction as well as instruction in righteousness, to furnish the man of God to completeness. To put it another way, we cannot ignore these things and be a complete person in the church of the Lord without having them.

So we say with all those places in the Old Testament and the New "hear the word of the Lord," or anything similar to them so we may understand and grow unto salvation.



If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God

(Colossians 3:1).

Someone once noted: "If you want to be distressed – look within. If you want to be defeated – look back. If you want to be distracted – look around. If you want to be dismayed – look ahead. If you want to be delivered – look up!"

The key to proper conduct upon the earth is found by looking up to heaven. Continually seek out, strive for, and step toward heaven in everything you do (Isaiah 26:3). What words would you use if heaven was in your thoughts? How would you treat others if you had heaven on your mind? What kind of work would you do if you focused on heaven? Think about it.

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

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.

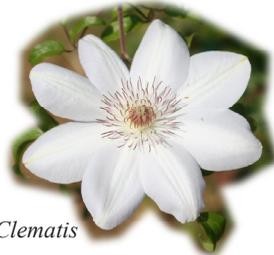
Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!

This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - Rejection of Cheap Religion

P.M. - Not Above That Ye Are Able



Clematis

Preaching As Worship

Mike Vestal

It not only is essential to restore the acts or elements of New Testament worship; it is crucial to restore the appropriate spirit and attitude as well (cf. Ps. 29:2; John 4:24; Matt. 15:6-9). Worship ought to be the total engagement of those involved in savoring and expressing the greatness and glory of God through the divinely authorized avenues found in the New Testament (cf. Mark 12:30; Ps. 34:3). In worship we ascribe and attempt to describe the awe, adoration and appreciation we have for our God according to what is authorized and prescribed in Scripture.

Preaching is seen throughout the Bible in worship contexts (Cf. Neh. 8:1-13; Acts 2:14-47; 20:7). Tragically, preaching has fallen upon "hard times" - it frequently is downplayed and considered irrelevant. Negative connotations and bad jokes abound concerning it. What can be done to restore and revive preaching as part of worship? The following four considerations are humbly offered to all those who preach and who listen to sermons.

Preaching As Exultation and Praise. The word to remember here is theocentric (God-centered). Preaching ought to be more about God and His will. The word of God is all about the salvation of man to the glory of God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Too much preaching is man-centered, with a verse or two of Scripture thrown in as garnish! Preachers - do you really preach a great and glorious God? Is that what those who regularly hear you would say? Preaching is done in the context of worship, is an avenue or element of worship and is intended to arouse and to motivate even more worship and praise. Too little is said about and practiced relative to this matter in preaching. And it is little wonder that worship is negatively affected when there is little of the wonder of God consistently reflected in the pulpit!

Preaching As Obligation and Command. The word is to be preached (2 Tim. 4:2). The "whole counsel" of God is to be proclaimed (Acts 20:20, 27). The breath-taking story of Jesus is to be proclaimed in its amazing richness, variety and beauty. There should be a greater compulsion on the part of those of us who preach to preach this way, and we should be determined to hear preaching that way too (Luke 8:18; Heb. 2:1-3)! It is fitting to ask, "Am I handling God's word



with love, accuracy and care by the way I preach and/or hear" (Cf. 2 Tim. 2:15)? **Preaching As Proclamation and Communication.** Low views of preaching ultimately lead to low views of Scripture and of worship and vice versa. The foundation of preaching is that God has spoken and that people need to hear His joyous message of salvation in Christ. If not, judgment awaits. Real preaching has as its underlying foundation and content the holy and inspired word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Preachers are men with a message, and God and His message are to be seen in our words, character and emotions (1 Thess. 1:5)! Preaching involves the effective communication and application of God's words to people. We better make sure the message of God does not get lost through our poor translation of it! And hearers must listen to and evaluate sermons on the basis of its Ultimate Source and in view of eternity.

Preaching As Transformation and Renewal. Whenthe word of God is faithfully preached souls are saved, Christians are strengthened and God is praised and magnified. Christ is "formed" in us (Gal. 4:19), we are more "conformed" to His image (Rom. 8:29) and our minds are "transformed" and "renewed" (Rom. 12:2). How fitting! Through the proclamation of Christ in worship, we become more like the One we lovingly adore. We come into the presence of God in worship and no one who thoughtfully enters will come out unchanged.

How we should treasure the privilege of worship and the taking in of God's word that goes with it, for on such occasions we anticipate the day we will forever be in the presence of our great and glorious God!

Singing and prayer this coming Wednesday evening! Please be prepared!

Announcements

1. Brother Jordan will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Beverly will be on a Carribean Cruise this coming week. we pray that she has a great time!

~ On the Prayer list ~

- Our Family here at Alisal** - for spiritual growth and good health.
- Norma, Rose & Kerry** - for peace of mind, healing, and better health.
- Beverly** - for a great vacation and safe return.
- David from Morro Bay** - for healing from his transplants and stroke.

Have a blessed week!