

### Real Gold Versus “Fool’s Gold”

During the California gold rush (1848), there were many men whose hearts leaped with joy when they found gold, only to discover that what they had really uncovered was “fool’s gold.” It was called that, not only because it lacked the necessary qualities of gold, but because it fooled the novice. The assayer would have difficulty in convincing a novice that his discovery was not the real thing. However, just because the finder believed that his discovery was real, he could very rarely sway an assayer’s judgment to give him any money.

On the other hand, an experienced gold digger could easily determine the validity of a find with just a glance. He had learned through experience, to differentiate between real gold and fool’s gold. He was never afraid to have his claim tested, and he wasn’t going to waste his time digging for worthless metal.

Asking some people to test the validity of their religious convictions, seems to almost be an insult to them. Though their soul’s condition may be based on a false estimation of value, they are satisfied to be deceived with a religion of “fool’s gold” (see Galatians 1:8-9). They seem to think that because they believe it to be so, then it must be so (contrast – Proverbs 16:25; Psalm 25:8-10).

For something of much greater value than gold (Matthew 13:45-46), one can hardly afford to accept a system of faith deficient in power to save (Romans 1:16-17). Let’s not be “carried about with every wind of doctrine,” but be honest searchers of “the faith” (gospel system of faith – Acts 17:11; Ephesians 4:13; Romans 10:17).

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**WHEN GOD SAYS “NO”**

It appears that with a lot of people, because they pray, they expect God to answer them in a favorable way. Serious Bible students know better. There are sometimes, for His own reasons and perhaps for the good of those who pray, that God says “No” to a request.

Even those who follow God closely do not always get what they ask. David was a man “after God’s own heart.” (1 Sam 13:14) Therefore he was close to God as no other before him. In fact, God was so struck by the attitude of this man he vowed to “build him a house in which he would dwell forever.” (1 Kings 12:36) But even David did not get the answer he desired for all his prayers. He wanted to build a house for God in Jerusalem.

But God said, “In all places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel, spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to be shepherd of my people Israel, saying, Why have ye not built me a house of cedar?” Then God said, “When thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee... and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” (2 Sam. 7:7,12-13)

Even for servants of God, they do not always get what they want. David was not able to build the tabernacle (a house for God) because he was a man of war. Although David wanted to build a temple for the Lord, God had other plans.

God did not leave David empty-handed. He told him what He would do for him and David, the kind of man that he was, knew God had done him a favor and he prayed a glorious prayer (2 Sam. 7:18-29). So this wise man, who reigned over the people of God for 40 years, knew God had given him a greater gift than he had planned himself. Yes, sometimes God says “no” to the desires of our hearts, in order to bestow upon us a greater gift. *Ed Smithson*

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## church of Christ at Alisal

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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

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



Jordan

**A.M. - Ways Individuals Decide to Cope with Sin  
P.M. - Increment of Christian Graces**



Charles

### On Being A Role Model

An anonymous author once made this true statement, "We cannot live our lives alone, for other lives we touch, are either strengthened by our own, or weakened just as much."

The apostle Paul said it another way, "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself" (Romans 14:7).

There's not a person living who does not influence someone, either for good, or for evil. And thus, whether we like it or not, every one of us is a role model to someone.

For example, one such role model we find in the New Testament, is the apostle Paul. He boldly held himself up as a pattern for all Christians to follow.

He stated, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). He knew that his serving as a godly role model, was contingent upon his faithfulness in following the Lord.

Paul commended the Thessalonians because they followed him and the Lord (1 Thessalonians 1:6). And because of their godly influence as role models, they not only became examples to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia, but they were also well-known for their faith toward God (1 Thessalonians 1:7-8).

As we pattern our lives after Paul, who himself patterned his life after the Lord, we in turn become role models who are being copied by folks we associate with.

Let's ask ourselves, "What is the quality of our spiritual influence? Is it negative or positive?"

Brethren, our spiritual influence is either one or the other — it can never be neutral (Revelation 3:14-15 ). No one can ever truly say, "I'm not a role model."

For the cause of Christ, let's be the best godly role model we can be! (Matthew 5:16; cf. Philippians 2:14-16] ; 1 Peter 2:11-12).

**"LET US REMEMBER THAT, AS MUCH AS HAS BEEN GIVEN US, MUCH WILL BE EXPECTED FROM US, AND THAT TRUE HOMAGE COMES FROM THE HEART AS WELL AS THE LIPS, AND SHOWS ITSELF IN DEEDS."  
(THEODORE ROOSEVELT)**



### ETERNAL WORDS

"You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

Words come effortlessly. Some with great care, but many just tossed out in the air. We read, talk and listen. Our minds reel with words. So many words, yet there are precious few that speak of eternal life. Jesus words are eternal, they will never pass away. His words have authority, because he has all authority in heaven and earth. Are you reading words of life and eternity? We want to keep up, be in the know about all that is going on in the world, but it leads nowhere. It's a dead end. Only Jesus speaks the eternal words of life.

Jesus explains that he did not speak his own words, but words commanded by the Father. "I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." (John 12:50) It's not what others say about his words, it's what Jesus says. How many times does Jesus say, "Listen to me, I speak the truth." But listening to Jesus is not enough.

Just listening would make us like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. We are to hear his words and put them into practice. "As for the man who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day." (John 12:47-48)

Jesus words are perfect for guiding, teaching wisdom, insight and understanding. They are the words that lead to eternal life. Do you know the eternal words spoken by Jesus? *Elizabeth Brown*



*"Unwillingness to accept God's "way of escape" from temptation frightens me - what a rebel yet resides within." -  
Jim Elliot*

### Announcements

- 1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.  
***Singing and prayer this coming Wednesday evening! Please be prepared!***

~ On the Prayer list ~  
**Elders of the Lord's church** - for godly leadership.  
**Norma, Rose** - for peace of mind, healing, and better health.  
**Kerry** - for a safe trip home from Maryland.

**Have a blessed week!**