

September 9, 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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WHEN GOD SAYS “NO”

Ed Smithson

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.



The Bible Matters

By Rob Albright

The Bible is God’s unique communication to all mankind. I know there are many who do not believe the Bible is from God, but those of us who “trust and obey” God’s Word, are experiencing changed lives.

The Bible is not a book of fables. It is the truth from God (John 17:17). It is historically and archaeologically accurate and that is part of the proof that shows Divine authorship.

Far too many say it does not matter what Jesus said or did. It does matter (John 8:24; 20:30-31). The things written in the Bible are designed to bring us to have faith (Romans 10:17) in Jesus.

We read in the Bible how Jesus, the Son of God, died for our sins (Romans 5:8-9) and He arose from the dead for our justification (1 Corinthians 15). Since Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), should we not listen, obey, and abide in Jesus? (Hebrews 5:8-9).

The beginning of Apple Cider Vinegar



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

A.M. - The Ugly Truth on Being Ready
P.M. - Members One of Another

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With the Spirit and with the Understanding Also
Rodney Nulph



Christianity is a singing religion! God's people sing. In fact, singing is a commanded act of worship (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). However, for the faithful child of God, singing goes far beyond the command. One of the great ways in which private and public worship is given to the Almighty is by raising our songs of praise. The faithful live by the wisdom of James. "...Is any merry? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13b). The apostle Paul, by inspiration's pen, declared that our singing must be done "with the spirit and with the understanding also" (1 Corinthians 14:15). While most Christians understand the need and the requirement for vocal singing as per the New Testament pattern, this author is fearful that the spirit and the understanding part of that pattern often is not considered. What did God mean when He demanded that our singing was to be done with spirit and with understanding?

Firstly, "spirit and understanding" include concentration. In the immediate context of 1 Corinthians 14, Paul was dealing with people who were zealous for certain things (i.e., miracles), but they were not interested in the spiritual edification of others (cf., 1 Corinthians 14:12). The entire reason for the miraculous gifts at Corinth was so that understanding and enlightenment could come to all, not just to those who were using the gifts. Although the miraculous has ceased today, the principle is still the same. One result of vocal singing is to edify (build up spiritually) the worshippers (1 Corinthians 14:16). When our singing is merely "rote" and we do not really concentrate on the words and their meaning, we certainly neither please God nor fulfill the demand or reason for singing.

Secondly, "spirit and understanding" involve interpretation. Singing words that make little sense or that are unknown is a spiritual waste of time. Understanding what we sing is a vital part of pleasing God. Some songs use words with which many in the assembly are not familiar. Another serious concern are songs that simply do not teach truth, but in fact, they teach error. Remember, many of the "worshipful" songs we sing were not written by New Testament Christians. Therefore, just because a song is in our songbook or on our digital song list does not mean it is a scriptural song! Far too many songs teach Calvinism, Premillennialism, faith only as well as a myriad of other false doctrines. While many congregations would never let false doctrine be preached, these same congregations

are often guilty of teaching false doctrines through song, which is equally reproachful. This author has witnessed a sound congregation whose elders went through the song-books and stamped "do not sing or lead this song," due to the false teachings contained therein. This is commendable and certainly proof of "watching for your souls" (Hebrews 13:17). We sometimes get to the point where the only command as far as singing is concerned about which we care is that we sing without musical instruments. While there is certainly no authority for mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship, a capella singing is not the only requirement for scriptural singing.

Thirdly, "spirit and understanding" include motivation. Singing in spirit engages our emotions. Please understand it is not "emotionalism" but rather genuine emotion that comes from a thankful heart. Our emotions are gifts from God, and they must be engaged as we praise Him. Singing should result in passion, power and a path by which we can live what we have sung. If our singing does not motivate our living, then one would have to question whether that singing was properly accomplished. Singing, by its very nature, is uplifting and affects our emotions. Scriptural singing should light a fire in our hearts that will melt the lead in our feet as we go forth to serve the One to Whom we sang.

I believe singing is one of the great ways in which we extol the King. Next time we "make music in our hearts" and allow that music to roll off our lips, let's consider Paul's admonition to sing with the spirit and with the understanding. Today and always, "...let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15). "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

**"Man does not rule over evil except when he refuses to do it.
When he has truly done evil, he is its servant." —
Hildegard of Bingen**

Announcements

1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Wednesday evening class, "Romans - chapter 4/5 #4". Be prepared - bring your notebook!

~ On the Prayer list ~

Rosemarie's mother - for recovery from her stroke
Norma, Rose, Beverly - for healing, and better health.
Kerry - for much success in his new USDA job.

Have a blessed week!