

Los Altos Church of Christ

*"...being of the same mind, maintaining the same love,
united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:2*

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This Sunday...Smokescreen

Social media was created with a genuine desire to connect the world but it has slowly become a carefully crafted trap designed to create artificial status and importance. When the world places a high value on followers and influencers, we must not fall prey to the smokescreen of social media. We should not be wasting our time chasing momentary affirmation. Instead we need to remember that God's best work is seen through the extraordinary things He does in our everyday ordinary lives.

PRAYERS *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

Continue to pray for Ernie Gordon...John and Jennifer...Tim's recovery... Roger Townsend... Berry... Jeff's mother... Jene's hand...Christine's mother... Allen Sawyers...The Britton Family ... Barbara... Gwen and her son Caleb... Emmy Creswick... Jene's friend, Jim Thorpe... Lu...City of Children... Healing Hands International... Japhet's work in Zimbabwe...and New Hope Uganda.

Thought for the week...

God buried your "I can'ts" in the grave of Christ. Every last one of them. You say you can't forgive someone? You can't, but with Christ you can. Can't survive the struggle? You can't, but with Christ you can. Can't hang on any longer? Turn to Christ for help. "God's power is very great for us who believe. That power is the same as the great strength God used to raise Christ from the dead" (Eph. 1:19-20 NCV). The same steely, burly force that raised Christ from the dead will turn your "I can'ts" into "I cans": "I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me the strength" (Phil. 4:13 NCV). - Max Lucado

Los Altos Reopens April 4!

More information on our reopening will be coming next week.

Larry's new phone number is (562) 341- 8774

Thoughts on Freedom

By Tom Norvell

Freedom is a popular topic in social media, news media, and daily conversations. We are frustrated and angered when our space is restricted or abused. We struggle to know the privileges and limits of our freedom.

New Testament letters contain messages on how to use our freedom in Christ, which may also help us live within our communities.

*It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?
(Galatians 5:13-15, The Message)*

Here are a few thoughts that I find helpful in Paul's writing.

Be joyful with your freedom. Read that again: *enjoy*. It's okay to enjoy your life. One of the great blessings of being a follower of Christ is that we can be set free to live free of our sins, free of our pasts, free from our guilt, and freedom to worship God as we choose. That should bring us joy. God created us with unique gifts, talents, and abilities, and He wants us to live and use those gifts and talents for His glory however we feel led to do so. He put very few limitations on how we are to use our skills, abilities, and gifts. He called us to a free life, so live and enjoy your freedom. There is no need to boast about it. Just enjoy it.

Be gracious with your freedom. Just because we are free to say whatever we want does not mean we should say it. Just because we are free to do whatever we please does not mean we ought to do it. In another letter, Paul writes: "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Corinthians 9:13, 23) There is no need to put others down because they do not have the same freedom. Just be gracious.

Be generous with your freedom. When we use our privilege to serve others, it becomes contagious. When someone expresses their love for me by helping me, I desire to return the kindness or pass it on to someone else. Serving others creates a desire to keep doing good, which reminds me that I am free to be as kind I can be. There is no limit to how kind I can be or how much I can serve. There is no need to quash your freedom. Just be generous.

God's Kingdom is about freedom, and as citizens of His Kingdom, we are to be lights in the world by being joyful, gracious, and generous with our freedom. If you pay close attention this week, you may have multiple opportunities to let that light shine.

Time For A Laugh

A man died and went to heaven. He was met at the Pearly Gates by Peter who led him down the golden streets. They passed stately homes and beautiful mansions until they came to the end of the street where they stopped in front of a rundown cabin. The man asked Peter why he got a hut when there were so many mansions he could live in. Peter replied, "I did the best with the money you sent us."