

Alêtheia Christian Fellowship
November 1, 2020
“The Power and The Word”

Sunday school at 8:30, Service at 9:15, Service at 10:45 with King’s Kids.

NEWS

Thanks to Don, Jim, and Rich. Stacey is the bomb. Thanks to the Elders, and to the loving Alêtheia Family
 Be respectful of others by allowing them to deal with COVID 19 in their own way.
 Wednesday Night Activities at 6:30 PM

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

Visit the website ~ www.myaletheia.com

Like us on Facebook (aletheiachristianfellowship)

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10 years ago, yesterday... God’s blessing of the Alêtheia family in the past, present and on into the future, is not because we are so faithful...

“What would Jesus do?”

Do not represent God falsely (I Corinthians 15:15).

The Lord’s Prayer: The first half is the Kingdom as it relates to _____. The second half is as it relates to _____.

Romans 8:28. Do you trust God and His Holy Word?

The ultimate good and the thing that brings God eternal glory?
 (II Peter 3:9, Matthew 18:14).

The Election is in two days... “It’s not about me. What would Jesus do? Because it’s not about me.”

Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.

God Bless You!

MATTHEW 22:23-33 ~

The Sadducees “The Sons of Zadok” קִדְּוֹץ (tzä-dök) (Ezekiel 44:15).
Greek the Σαδδουκαῖος (Säd-dü-kī-ös).

Daniel 12:1-3. Why didn't Jesus just quote that?

Jesus told them, “You are mistaken,” and went on to give them a two-pronged response. First, they didn't understand the Scriptures and second, they didn't understand the power of God. Then He elaborated chiasmically.

“God is Spirit” (John 4:24). We will not be angels, but we will be like angels, very much like God, in that we will be spirit...

The exclusivity required for a physical union on earth, will no longer be necessary in that reality.

In verse 31, Jesus took up His first point. “Have you not read?” He then quoted Exodus 3:6. God thundered from the Burning Bush. I AM, I EXIST AS, that means I AM presently... The God of the Patriarchs, whom are all long-since dead, physically speaking.

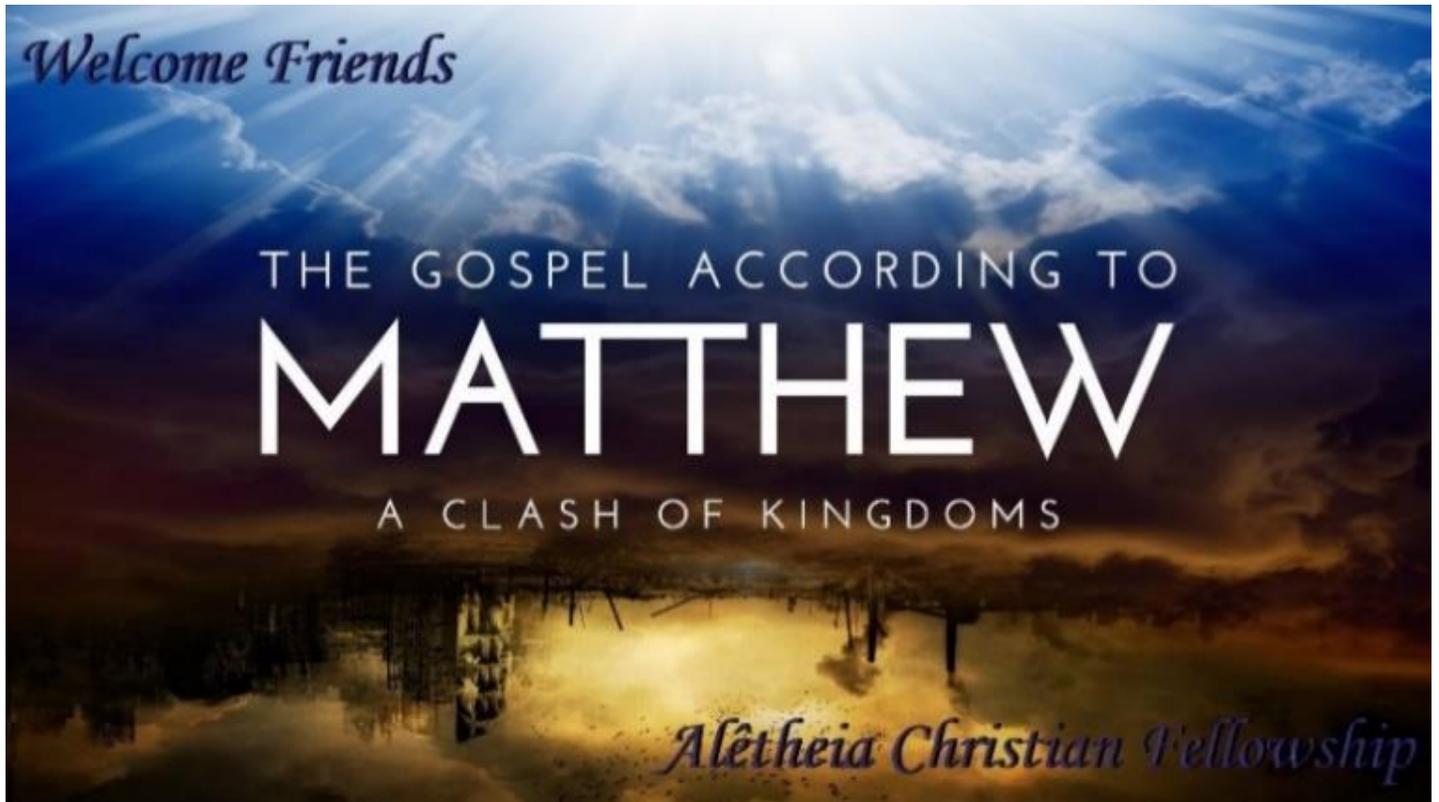
God can't presently be the God of that which no longer exists.

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon/Elder

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Alêtheia ~ Matthew 22b ~ 110120
“The Power and The Word”



Don, Jim, and Rich.

Stacey and the Elders.

All of you for allowing me some time off and for working diligently to grow in the Faith and thereby bringing glory to God.

When we care enough to evaluate our actions and admit when we're wrong... When we care enough to swallow our pride and ask for forgiveness... When we care enough to accept forgiveness, put the past behind us and move on for the glory of God and the unity of His church...

Well, it blesses the Father, as we follow the Son, by yielding to the Holy Spirit. Thank you for putting God's interests ahead of your own.

With Pastor Appreciation Month now past... Thank you all for the kind words, wonderful cards and letters, the thoughtful gifts, the generous help... I am blessed to be your pastor - thank you.



10 years ago, yesterday, we held our first service in this building. A whole bunch of people told me that I was an idiot for moving the church out here to the sticks. They said it wouldn't last 6 months. Even people in the church at the time said that they wouldn't make the move - it was too far to drive. For the majority of us it was an exciting time of meetings and prayer and

discussion and hard work transforming this Montessori School into a church. God was so gracious to us as we stepped out in faith - He's been so gracious to us through the last decade and I have no doubt about His graciousness going forward.

His blessing of the Alêtheia family in the past, present and on into the future is not because we are so faithful, nor was it because we were deserving of His blessing in any other way. It is because He is good. He is faithful. He blesses us for His Name's sake. We're just along for the ride as long as we hang on... See what I mean? Our job is to pray for the character and strength to hang on. Pray for that, my dear friends, pray for that.

A photograph of four wooden letters spelling 'WWJD' arranged horizontally on a light-colored surface. The letters are made of dark-stained wood with a visible grain. The first two 'W's are identical, the 'J' is a simple hook shape, and the 'D' is a simple block letter. The letters cast soft shadows to the right.

We've all heard the worn-out cliché, "What would Jesus do?" I have, nevertheless, frequently, advocated the use of the concept. In fact, I ended my last sermon with that question, "What would Jesus do?"

As I mentioned then, and most of the times before, the problem with us, is that most of us, most of the time, don't have a clue what Jesus would do. Sometimes we admit that we don't know and then use that ignorance as an excuse to do whatever we wanted to do instead. What's even worse than that, is when we convince ourselves that what we want is what Jesus would do. We put our thoughts, words and deeds in mind, mouth and activity of Almighty God made flesh. We represent to the world a false Jesus.

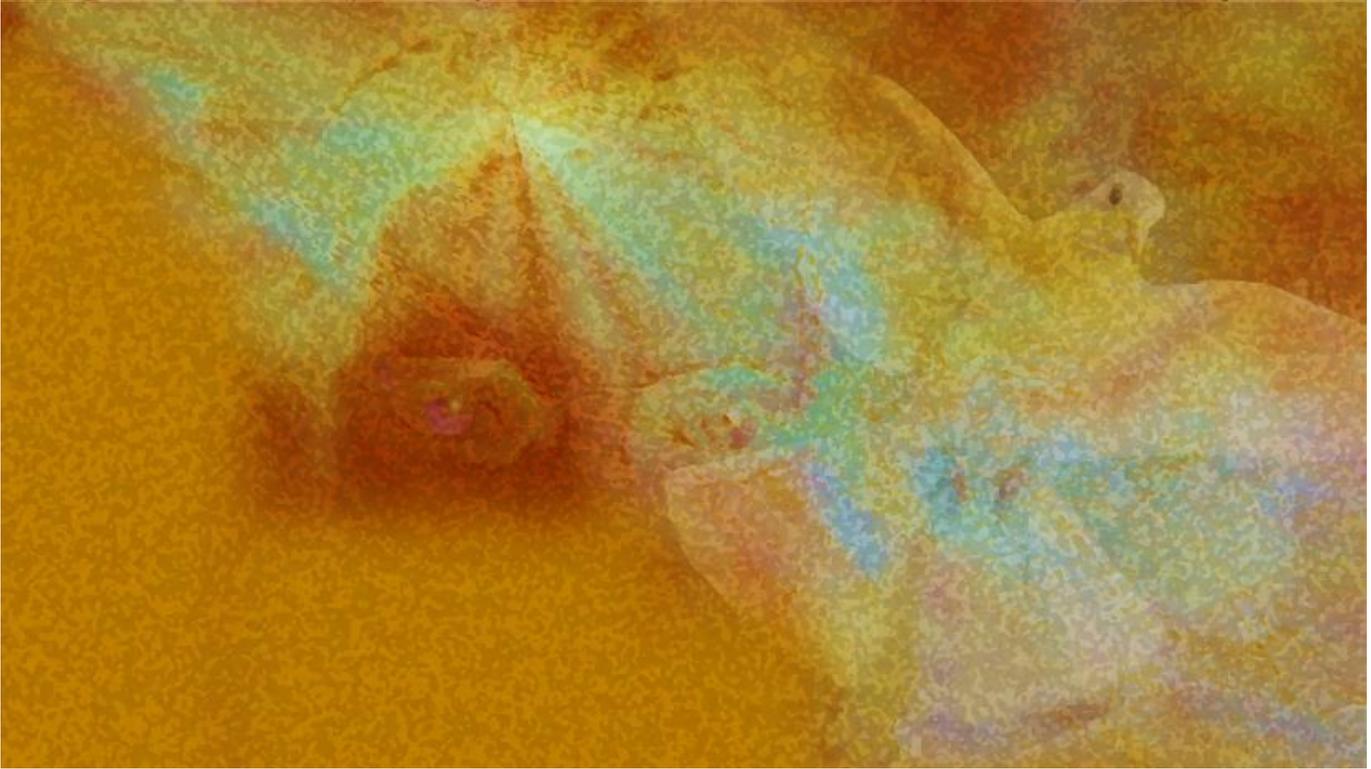
My, oh my, my dear friends, please be extremely careful in your portrayal of our Lord. This is nothing to be trifled with. Do not represent God falsely.

The Apostle Paul mentioned the gravity of the situation in I Corinthians chapter 15, where he states that testifying falsely about God makes one a false witness against God. Well, of course that makes sense - it's obvious. The part many people miss is that any misrepresentation of God makes one a false witness

against God and the Bible is clear that there are few things worse than that. Be careful how you live your life as a representative of Christ. Be especially careful about putting words in His mouth.

Present God accurately. That means be intentional and it means quickly admitting when you get it wrong.

It's true that many times we aren't sure what Jesus would do in a given situation. It's partly because we don't want to acknowledge it, so either consciously, or subconsciously, we suppress our recognition of what our Lord and Master would do in our situation. Sometimes we actually just don't know... Maybe through confusion, or ignorance, or very often due to inattention. A lack of prayerful, focused, intentional, openness to what the Holy Spirit is whispering to us.



The Voice of God speaks to us and we rarely hear it. We are distracted. Distracted by all the noise of the world that Satan runs... Please understand that, just as C.S. Lewis expressed in his book *The Screwtape Letters*, Satan only needs to distract us from what's most important.

What is that? We've seen it over and over. Love God. Love one another. That's the answer to the question, "What would Jesus do?" I gave that answer the last time we were together. It's easy and straightforward. Jesus would always and will always do whatever it takes to bring God glory. That's it. "What would Jesus do?" He would do what brings God glory.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

**OUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE
YOUR NAME. YOUR KINGDOM COME. YOUR WILL BE
DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD. AND FORGIVE
US OUR DEBTS, AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR
DEBTORS. AND DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.**

The Lord's Prayer, as we call it, was Jesus teaching us what to pray and therefore it is of supreme importance... What would Jesus do if He were in your shoes? He would pray the prayer He taught us to pray and live it out as though He meant it.

It is so unbelievably beautiful - so simple a small child can get it and so deep the greatest theologian could mine it for a lifetime. One aspect of it that you might not have thought about is the fact that the first three stanzas are all about the Kingdom of Heaven as it relates to God... Father be set above all else - let your kingdom permeate so that Your reign and rule is enthusiastically embraced - Your perfect Will, whatever

it is, be done, always and in all ways. See? Glory to God.

What does the second half - the final three stanzas have to do with that? It is all about how we, mere mortal, frail, failing, human beings are going to bring God the glory He deserves and that will save us... Hold that thought...

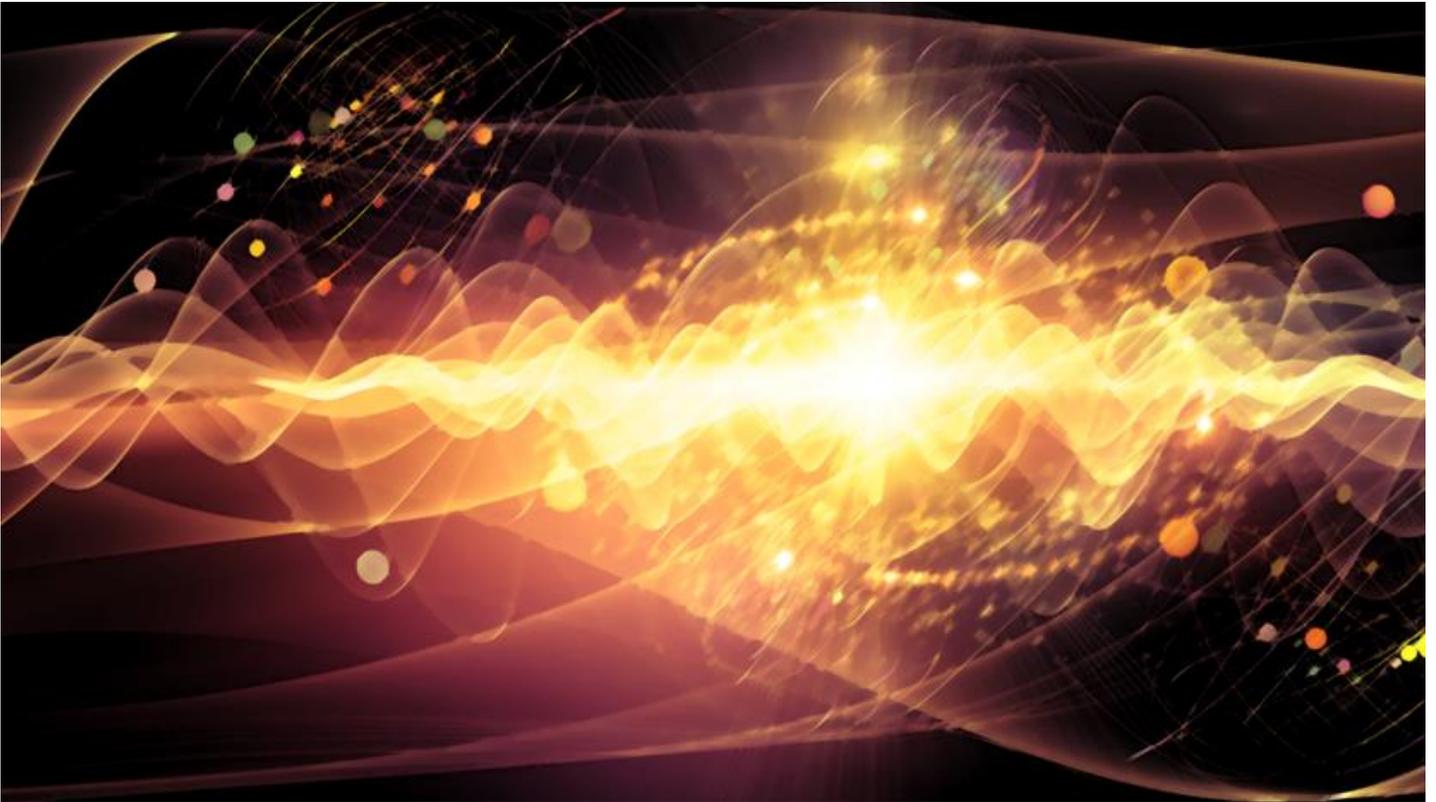
It is the Kingdom of Heaven as it relates to us... Father give us the Bread of Life, the Manna from Heaven, the Word of God, the Jesus, we need today to get through today honoring You. Give us today and each day our daily allotment of the Christ in us to behave as Christians - to live as Children representing You accurately.

How can we love You and love others with Your love? How can we accurately represent You here and now?

Only by owning the reality that we are no better than any other person bound for an eternity in the Fiery Pit. You have Saved us through Your own unilateral Love, Mercy and Grace costing You everything you could possibly spend... We are forgiven because Jesus paid it all. The proof that we get that and the litmus test for

how well we get it is in how forgiving we are of those who have wronged us. Father help us to be forgiving people so that our forgiveness from You will have its effect in our lives... All for Your great glory. Finally, Father as you lead us through this existence, and we encounter the difficulties that a part and parcel to the fallen human condition as well as the tribulations caused by the schemes of the Devil. Help us to be in You, so that these trials become to us, tests of You in us, rather than temptations of our own flesh. Let us be victorious as You win each battle, rather than us be defeated by trying to fight those battles on our own.

“What would Jesus do?” Well, He wouldn’t do anything that dishonors God - no matter what was at stake. Another way to see it is through the famous Romans 8:28 verse. “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”



That means that Almighty God is orchestrating everything for the maximum possible good. It may be ugly and seemingly evil in the here and now. It is almost always incomprehensible to us mere mortals, but it is always good ultimately.

To believe that requires faith. Do you trust God and His Holy Word? The more your faith is tested, the easier it is to believe. The more you have stepped out in faith, the more opportunity God has to test your faith - to show you His faithfulness – His trustworthiness.

My point is that God is always working everything for good and we are supposed to be like Him. We are

supposed to be working everything for good as well. Not our good - His Good. That's the good we're talking about. It is good as God declares it.



We think we know good and evil, but that's impossible in a big picture sense, because none of us has the big picture... None of us can see over the horizon... None of us can tell the future. But God can. Only God can, so only God can say what is ultimately good.

Well, in this case, God has revealed the ultimate good... It is the same thing that warrants the highest possible praise of Him – it is what glorifies Him the most. What is that thing? It is what I alluded to earlier

when I said, “Hold that thought.” I said, “Human beings are going to bring God the glory He deserves and that will save us.” It was the “That will save us” part.

The ultimate good and the thing that brings God eternal glory, is the everlasting salvation of human souls. The Apostle Peter, in talking about the return of the Lord and the renewal of all things said in, II Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” It’s the same point that Jesus made in Matthew 18:14, “It is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.”

When we Christians, we Children of the Living God, correctly honor God, we portray Him correctly to the world and it is that portrayal in thought, word and deed, that God chooses to use to bring others into the Kingdom. The honor we give God isn’t because He has a need to be honored - it’s because in honoring Him we prove that we are saved, and through that, God enables others to join us.

Nothing matters more than that - nothing.



The Election is in two days. No matter what happens, it will be ugly for America. Why wouldn't it be ugly for America? Really, why? Do you think God loves modern America more than He loved ancient Israel?

America has done far worse than Israel ever did, and God orchestrated the utter destruction of their nation repeatedly. You say, but Scott, America is "One nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

Where's the justice for God? We've ejected Him from government, from schools, from most churches. We have murdered over 60 million unborn human beings in the last 45 years. We have made a mockery out of

marriage. We have made the most unnatural relations natural. We “Call evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). But Scott, there are still so many of us that love and trust in God - America is still a Christian nation.

My friends, every time God orchestrated the destruction of the Jewish state it was still full of devout Jews doing their best to serve Him.



**BE COURAGEOUS:
GOD IS IN CONTROL**

Why am I saying this? I’m not trying to upset you. I’m not trying to be a downer - a gloom and doom guy. Quite the reverse, in fact. I’m here to give you the Good News. No matter what happens, God is in control. At this present time, He has given control of

this world-system to Lucifer. That doesn't mean Lucifer is in control - it means that God is in control. He allows the Devil to tempt and to distract, to disrupt and to destroy. right up until He doesn't allow it anymore... God is in control.

We can play into Satan's hands by getting wrapped around the axle about all manner of foolish things from masks to campaign rhetoric, from international intrigue to domestic terrorism... Or we can remember who we are in Christ. We can remain above the fray knowing that God has us eternally. We can do our civic duty and get involved in our community, in politics, in elections, in protesting and in advocating, but we can do it all the while knowing what matters most.

Satan wants to divide the Body of Christ. He's been actively doing that for 2,000 years. What's so incredibly sad is that we are often his willing puppets. Fight for this country, fight for the values you hold dear, fight for the as yet unborn babies, but above all of that fight to love God better. Fight to prove your love for God by fighting to love those in the church, especially, my friends, especially, when you disagree with them.



It's okay to mess things up. It's okay to say stupid stuff. It's okay to be wrong. It's okay to take a stand and be mistaken... We are human. Every one of us human... Stupidity is what we do! Admit your fault. Ask for forgiveness. Accept forgiveness and move forward with a clean slate... That's Christianity.

"It's not about me." Please say that with me... "It's not about me." That's the phrase that immediately precedes and follows "What would Jesus do?" "It's not about me. What would Jesus do? Remember, it's not about me."



Matthew 22:23-33 ~

23 On that day some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him, 24 asking, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife, and raise up children for his brother.’ 25 “Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother; 26 so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh. 27 “Last of all, the woman died. 28 “In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had married her.” 29 But Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.

30“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 31“But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: 32‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.” 33When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.



This is the first time in this Gospel that the Sadducees are singled out and highlighted. The Sadducees were a Jewish subgroup or faction - basically, like a Jewish denomination. One of the better priests of the Old Testament was Zadok קִיֹּצֶן (tzä-dök) - Americans reverse the accent, make the “A” hard and the “O” soft

by saying it Zā-dōk. Anyway the “Z-Man” mostly served during the reign of Solomon.

Much later we get to Ezekiel 44:15, “But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, shall come near to Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood,” declares the Lord God.

These guys were called Zadokites. It seems that they were the priestly class from the time of the return from Babylonian Exile, until just after the Maccabean Revolt. From roughly 500 B.C. to 150 B.C. The Jewish Hasmonean Dynasty that was established with their victory over the Seleucid Empire found themselves in a power struggle with the priestly Zadokites. The Hasmoneans were the rulers, but the Zadokites were the High Priests... They disagreed on who had the final say? The Hasmoneans jailed, killed, ran off the Zadokites and appointed one of their own as High Priest.

Similar to King Henry the VIII murdering Sir Thomas More. You might know the story. Henry wanted to get rid of his wife Catherine of Aragon. The Pope, best

friends with Catherine's parents, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain refused to allow it... Yes, the Christopher Columbus benefactors and founders of the Spanish Inquisition. She was far too connected to murder, so Henry decided to divorce her anyway and break with the Catholic Church creating the Church of England, known in America as Anglican Church.

Thomas opposed Henry and was executed. Anyway, the Zadokites are probably more related to the Essenes than the Sadducees, but to legitimize their hold on the priesthood the Hasmonean nobles called themselves the Sons of Zadok, in Greek the Σαδδουκαῖος (Säd-dü-kī-ös) - Sadducees.

They, like Reformed Jews today, did not believe in an afterlife. Dead was dead. The benefit of serving God was a better life now and the biggest part of that was living on in a legacy through your descendants. Someone might have pointed out to the Sadducees Daniel 12:1–3, 1“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2“Many of those

who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. 3“Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Why didn't Jesus just do that? Well, we'll see that He did allude to the passage, but He knew that the Sadducees, unlike the Pharisees, did not accept Daniel as Holy Scripture.

The conundrum the Sadducees presented was a common one - they often used it to disparage the Pharisees. Everyone had heard it before, and no one was able to refute it effectively.

Jesus told them, “You are mistaken.” Now, that's bold. Here are the ruling class of Jews. They are the High Priests and the leading members of the Jewish Council. Jesus just told them you're a bunch of blithering dolts - ignorant of God, His Holy Word, and His capabilities.



Jesus went on to give them a two-pronged response that He outlined in verse 29. First, He said, you don't understand the Scriptures and second, He said, you don't understand the power of God.

Then He elaborated on the first second and the second first in the typical chiastic method to aid memorization. Verse 30... You don't understand the power of God. How utterly ridiculous to think that the afterlife is the same as this life. How foolish and human-minded to think in human physical terms.

We see it all the time among various religions... The ridiculous and absurdly childish idea the Muslims have

about being rewarded with 70 virgins. The nonsensical and preposterously ludicrous idea the Mormons have about multiple wives in order to populate your own planet. I can't imagine why women would want any part of such misogynistic religions. Even in mainstream Christianity people have all sorts of whacked out ideas about the afterlife.



It only takes a moment of serious thought to realize that the limitations of this world will be no more. Space, time, matter, energy, all vastly different in a non-linear reality. "God is Spirit" (John 4:24), Jesus declared in John's Gospel. He must be worshipped in spirit, He went on. We will not be angels, but we will be like angels, whom are very much like God. We will also be

spirit... We will have an immortal, supernatural body that we can alter at will - a body unbound from the laws of physics we understand. We will be so perfected in God's Love that we will have no fear at all and because of that we will have a more intimate relationship with everyone in heaven than any of us has ever had with even our own spouse here on earth. It is way beyond any kind of a physical interaction - it is a touching of souls in perfect unity. Each of us retaining our individuality and at the same time one with the whole - one with God.



The exclusivity required for a physical union on earth... One man united with one woman in the sight of Almighty God, will no longer be necessary in that

reality. As a side note some people try to get a jump start with the abominable notion of open relationships of a marital nature now. It's just a rationalization for lust... Again, in heaven it isn't sexual at all and so there will be absolutely no need for gender.

Angels are neither men, nor women, nor some different kind of gender - they are genderless, just like God. If you seriously think that the Heavenly Father is irrevocably male, you clearly haven't thought that through.

Jesus gave both sides of the coin, which demonstrates His great concern for the female gender of earth. He said that in the Kingdom we will not marry - that's for men, nor will we be given in marriage - that's for the ladies.



In verse 31, Jesus gives an elaboration of His first point. Again, it's incredibly insulting to the highest officials of Judaism. "Have you not read?" Do you guys ever read the Words of God that you purport to know?



Jesus quoted one of the most well-known passages of all time. Moses is having a confab with a bush that's on fire, but not consumed. God thundered from the Burning Bush. I AM, I EXIST AS, that means I AM PRESENTLY the God of the Patriarchs who are all long-since dead, physically speaking.

God can't presently be the God of that which no longer exists - that's Jesus' point. No one knows better what God meant when His Words thundered from that Bush on that day, because the Word is Jesus.

His point resonated with the people and completely stumped the Sadducees.

My friends, in many places and in many ways, the Bible declares the future we have in store for us who “Love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Never allow His Grace to be taken for granted... Never allow yourself to have an entitlement mentality. Revel and bask in the Glorious Mercy you have received at Christ’s expense. Recognize your total dependence upon the Word of God, embrace His forgiveness by being forgiving and always walk with Him so that the trials and tribulations of this life will be tests of His Spirit working in concert with your own, rather than temptations of your flesh and in so doing portray God accurately as you honor Him as you dwell in His Kingdom as much as possible as you surrender to His perfect Will in your life and beyond.

COMMUNION *is...*

*The Unity of the
Community in Christ*

