

**“Commit Your Way to the Lord” (Cont. from pg. 2).** The final passage prophetically refers to the suffering of Jesus. Psalm twenty-two, in a number of passages, is applied to both the Psalmist and the coming Messiah. In verse eight the words are used mockingly - **“He trusted [galal] in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”** Matthew tells us that these words were hurled at Jesus, as He was crucified (Matthew 27:43). This is especially significant for us. Jesus Himself “rolled upon the Lord” His entire life.

Jesus’ entire focus was to do the will of His Father. He committed to Him all of His works and the entire course of His life. While those who hurled these words at Jesus thought His trust had been in vain, they didn’t see the full picture. God the Father was faithful to receive what Jesus committed to Him, and so He will be faithful to receive what we “roll upon the Lord.”

By Kyle Pope

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# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

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### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
10:20 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

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## “Commit Your Way To the Lord”

**P**salm thirty-seven verse five encourages the reader - **“Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring [it] to pass.”** (NKJV). The Holy Spirit uses an interesting expression here to communicate the idea that English Bibles translate “commit.” Two Hebrew words make up the expression. The first, the Hebrew word (גָּלַל) *galal* meaning literally to - “roll, roll away” (*Hebrew & English Lexicon of the Old Testament* Brown, Driver & Briggs, pg. 164) and the second, the preposition (עַל) ‘*al*’ meaning “on, over, upon” (*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, vol. 2, pg. 669). The text literally reads “Roll your way upon the Lord.”

In most passages where the word *galal* is used it retains its primary meaning. In Genesis 29:3 it is applied to a stone that is “rolled” away from a well. In a (Cont. on pg. 2)

## “Commit Your Way to the Lord” (Cont. from pg. 1).

gruesome account in II Samuel 20:12 Amasa is said to have “rolled” in his own blood. Isaiah draws the beautiful picture for us of the the final day when **“the heavens shall be rolled up [galal] like a scroll”** (Isaiah 34:4). We even use a form of the word, with this underlying meaning, whenever we refer to the city of Gilgal. Joshua tells us that after the younger Israelites, who came out of the wilderness were circumcised - **“Then the LORD said to Joshua, ‘This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’ Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.”** (Joshua 5:9). Gilgal means “a wheel, a rolling” (*Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, William Gesenius, pg. 192).

In three passages *galal* has a much different application. It is used to communicate the idea of committing, or turning over something to God. As we noted above Psalm 37:5 encourages us to “roll” our way, that is how we conduct our lives and the concern

we have for what happens in life, upon the Lord. We do not have the ability to determine within ourselves how we should conduct our lives. Neither do we have the ability to explain and understand every turn of events that life casts upon us. The child of God will “roll” all of these uncertainties unto the Lord, knowing that if we do what He asks us to, He will carry us through the peaks and valleys of life.

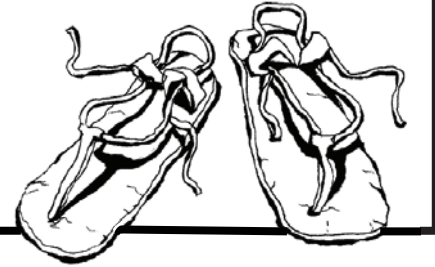
Proverbs 16:3 uses *galal* in the same way urging us - **“Commit [galal] your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.”** (Proverbs 16:3). Here it is not the course of our life that is the focus, but the deeds that we do. We “roll” our works upon the Lord, when we strive diligently to do those things that please Him. We do this when we trust that He will be pleased with our efforts whether others appreciate them or not. When we do this the text tells us that then our “thoughts will be established.” That is, we can have peace of mind in knowing that God is pleased with our efforts.

(Cont. on pg. 4).

## “As He Walked” – I John 2:6

Studies in the Character of Christ

By Kyle Pope



## Constancy in Prayer

It serves as a tremendous example to those who seek to be followers of Jesus that the Lord Himself, in times of glory or in times of trial and despair continually went to His Father in prayer. In the gospel of Matthew, after Jesus had performed the grand miracle of feeding the 5000 from only five loaves and two fish, Scripture tells us - **“And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray...”** (14:23, NKJV). Why after such a glorious event would He need to go to God in prayer?

On another occasion recorded in the gospel of Mark we see a similar reaction to a different situation. After healing Simon Peter’s mother-in-law, and many sick and demon-possessed the day before, the Scripture tells us - **“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed”** (1:35). We must ask again why Jesus would need to go to the Father in prayer, after acting with such power in healing the sick?

The one occasion when it is the easiest (from a human perspective) to understand why Jesus would go to God in prayer happens the night before His death as He prays in the garden. That night Jesus pled **“let this cup pass from Me”** (Matthew 26:39). We can all relate to Jesus’ apprehension upon facing death, but He had the power to appeal to God and have **“twelve legions of angels”** at His disposal (Matthew 26:53). Why would He pray?

In Jesus’ example we see both how and why we should be **“continuing steadfastly in prayer”** (Romans 12:12). If Jesus, who was God in the flesh, found it necessary to **“set His mind on things above”** (Colossians 3:2) through the avenue of prayer, it is just as important and necessary for us. We must do this with constancy and regularity in good times and bad times. The psalmist said - **“Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved”** (Psalms 55:2). This is exactly what Jesus did and exactly what we must do.