

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.07.28

Website: oakgrovecofc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

Sermon recordings

Click or type the short URL, or visit oakgrovecofc.org/Sermons.

Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Let Your Light Shine

Recording:

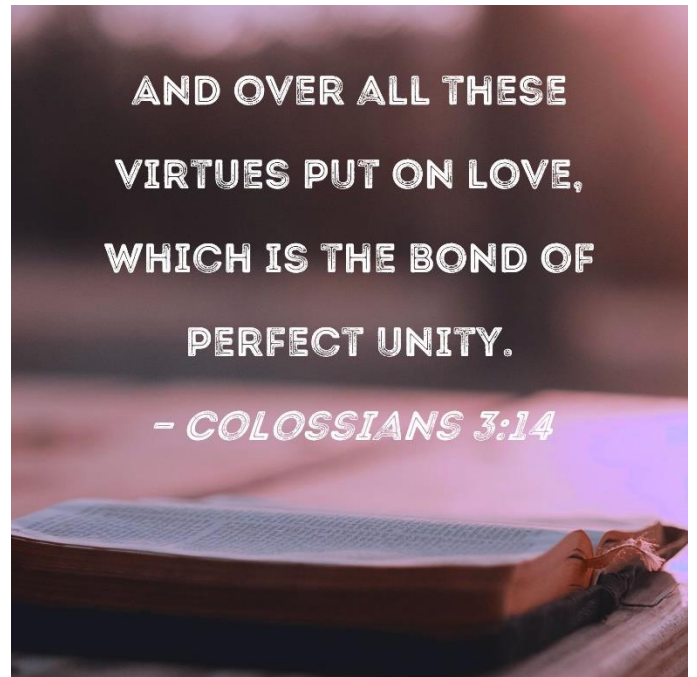
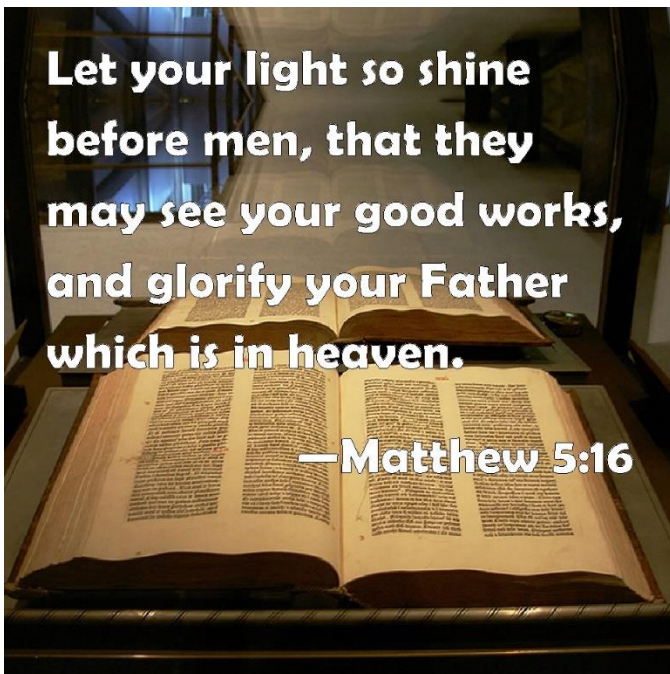
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/let-your-light-shine

Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: United In God & Christ

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/united-in-god-and-christ



Articles

The Israel Of God, 7/28/2024 By Sam Bunyard

“As many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16). A common perversion of the gospel in Paul’s day was the teaching that to be a Christian, one had to first become a Jew. The Galatian letter shows that through faith in Christ demonstrated in baptism, Gentiles can be added into the lineage of Abraham and become heirs as part of the Israel of God (Gal. 2-3)!

Paul wrote to the Romans, “he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter” (Rm. 2:28-29). The Israel of the New Covenant is made up of those who are Christ’s – whether they be Jew or Gentile (Gal. 3:26-29)!

In the Israel of God in the New Covenant, we are all the temple, a chosen generation, the royal priesthood, the holy nation, His special people, proclaimers of His praises, and people of light (I Pe. 2:4-10). We are people without a physical homeland (I Pe. 2:11-12). And yet, we have a kingdom! But is our citizenship much different than that of the world? The physical nation of Israel was often a people of war. So are we (II Cor. 10:3-6). They suffered captivity to purify and strengthen their ranks. So do we (I Cor. 3:12-15). When physical Israel went downhill, God preserved a remnant who remained holy. The same happens in the church (Rev. 2-3). Though God used a physical nation to teach us about our kingdom, our purpose and mindset should transcend that of this world.

If you are a Christian, God has enlisted you in service to spiritual Israel! Do not become entangled in this present world (II Tim. 2:4)!

Beyond Our Strength 6/21/2022 By Doy Moyer

There’s a principle Paul expresses in II Corinthians 1:8-11 that we need to learn well. We may feel overwhelmed by what is going on. We may feel in despair about many things. We may see that things are happening that are “beyond our strength.” What, then, is the lesson to learn? Here is what Paul learned when he felt the pressing “sentence of death”: “so that we would not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.”

So that we would not trust in ourselves but in God... That principle should be applied to whatever we feel is overwhelming. Is it culture? Is it politics? Is it personal threats? Is it financial? What is it? What is stressing us out so much? What are we feeling that is beyond our strength? We feel the desperation “so that we would not trust in ourselves but in God.”

Paul’s was very personal. He was persecuted and under constant threat (see II Corinthians 11). But the lesson is the same. If we are to trust in the Lord with all our heart, if we are not to lean on our own understanding, if we are to acknowledge God in all our ways (Proverbs 3:5-6), then, however, whatever, and wherever we are feeling the pressing sting of life, we are to trust God. There is no arena of life in which we are exempt from trusting Him.

“Yeah, but aren’t we supposed to do our part?” No one is saying we shouldn’t do what we are taught to do. “Yeah, but we still have to care about things.” Of course, we care but if we stew in worry, we cross over into what God told us not to do (Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 6:25-34). No “yeah, but...” are justified because none of the “buts” change what we are called on to do in trusting God. The overwhelming nature of this world can get to us. If we learn the lesson from Paul, we can see that things do indeed lie beyond our strength so that we will learn to trust in God who raises the dead.