

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.01.28

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Seven Churches - Laodicea

Recording:

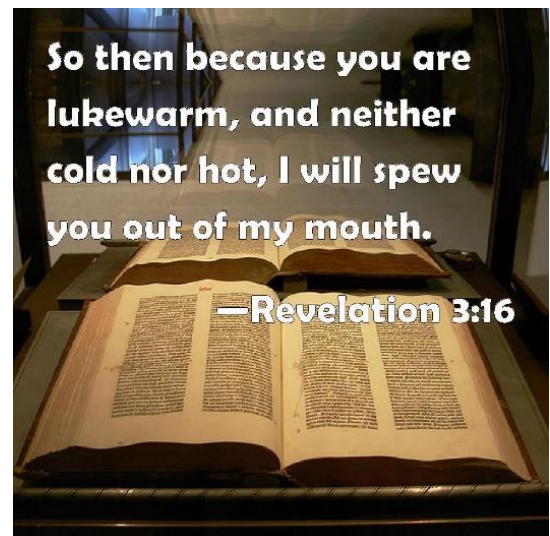
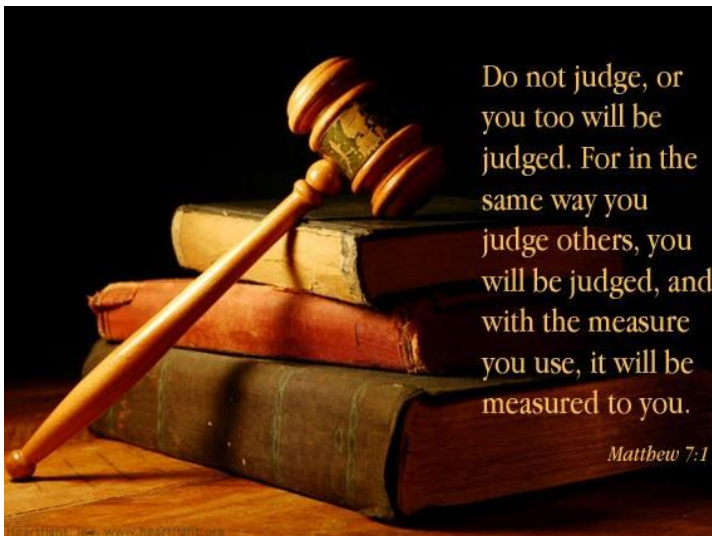
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/7churches-Laodecia

Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Judge Not

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/judge-not



Failing To Grow, 01/26/24 By Sam Bunyard

Concerning faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love, Peter wrote, “if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (II Pe. 1:5-8). To become spiritually mature and avoid falling short, we must “add” to the virtues that are already there. If we fail to grow in these things, we will become “useless” and “unfruitful” servants (vs 8).

If we fail to grow, we will shrink! “He who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins” (vs 9). Spiritual stagnation is not a thing. Either we progress, or we regress. If we stop trying to grow, we have begun the process of falling away.

The Hebrew writer wrote, “everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe; but solid food belongs to those of full age” (5:13-14). These are people who have been Christians for some time, but have failed to “by reason of use, have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (vs 14). They can’t even tell right from wrong anymore!

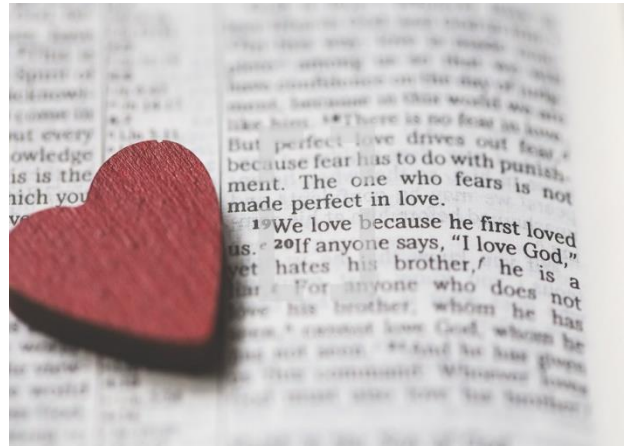
These Christians who ought to be mature, have forgotten a lot because of their lack of growth (II Pe. 1:9). They should be mature, but “need someone to teach them again the first principles of the oracles of God” and they have “come to need milk and not solid food” (He. 5:12). They are falling away.

The worst part is that this affects more than just the person falling away. The expectation was that these people “ought to be teachers” (He. 5:12). Evangelism leads to exponential growth of the kingdom – failing to grow into teachers of the gospel destroys this opportunity. For our own salvation, and the salvation of others, we must grow!



Who Deserves Your Heart? 1/24/24 by Terry Wane Benton

"Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!'" (Revelation 5:11-12).



John must have been awed and elated that what he had already heard from the living creatures and twenty-four elders around the throne was now amplified by thousands and thousands of “angels”. The angels were mighty in their own rank. Remember that on some of their missions on Earth, they were, just one of them, able to take out thousands of human soldiers with ease. It must have impressed John that thousands of thousands of angels amplify the song sung by the elders about Jesus being more than worthy to receive power and riches and wisdom. The idea is that if you would attribute to human kings like Nero “power”, and “riches”, then you should see that Nero is nothing compared to Jesus Christ.

We should be far more impressed with Jesus. We should attribute ultimate power, riches, and wisdom to Him on a level that makes Nero, like Nebuchadnezzar in the Babylonian kingdom, a man that Jesus can make eat grass. Strength should be attributed to Jesus, not Nero! Honor and glory and blessing to Jesus should far exceed any we would attribute to frail humans.

Only Jesus is truly worthy of such reverence and godly fear! If we fear the power of earthly kings and rulers, we need to come up here with John and get a better look at things. There is someone who can and will take down “those who trouble you.” (II Thessalonians 1:7f). You are the ones who reign! Not them! You have Jesus on your side, not them. You are the winners, not them. Be truly impressed with Who is on your side!

Come up here and be overwhelmed with His worthiness of our attributions of power, riches, and wisdom to someone. When your thoughts capture this vision, and this vision captures you, then look at evil forces on earth as unfortunate and deluded losers. Be truly honored with your exalted position! Come up here and truly see!