

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.02.11

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Two Buckets

Recording:

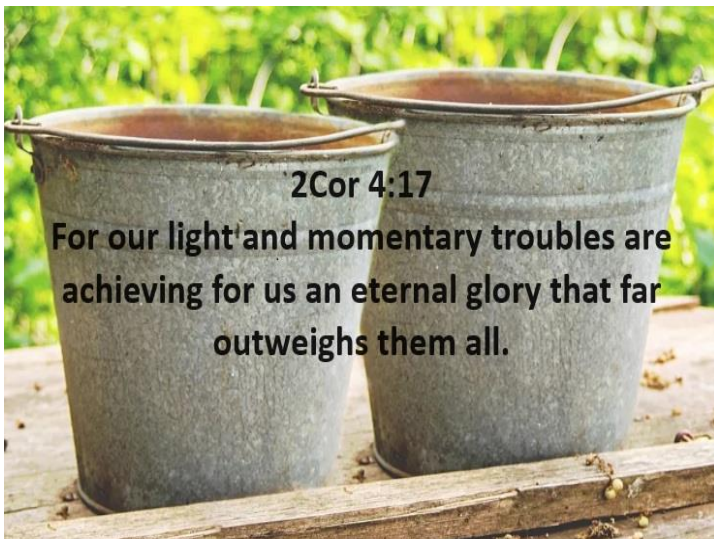
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/two-buckets

Speaker-PM: Patrick Hite

Title: Don't Lose Heart

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/dont-lose-heart



Being Different 2/10/24 By Robbie Moreland

We are told to be holy. Holy itself is defined as being set apart. Or set differently from the rest. The Biblical word "holy" describes the contemporary word "different". A holy person is not an odd person, but a different person. A holy person has a quality about their life that is unique. Their present lifestyle is not only changed from past lifestyles, but is set apart from the lifestyles of the unbelievers around them. A holy person takes Jesus Christ seriously. Believers in Christ have been called to live this unique life and a different lifestyle.

It means we start by thinking differently (1 Peter 1:13-16)

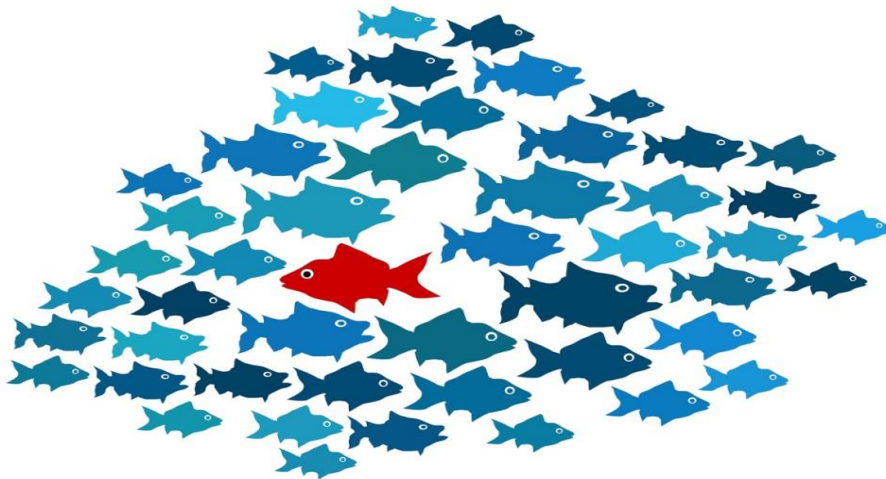
13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Today, we would use the expression to "roll up our sleeves." In other words, we are to take the initiative in preparing our minds for the life of holiness. It will require effort and hard work. Behavioral scientists have discovered that human behavior is determined to a great extent by the subconscious mind. The computer vocabulary graphically describes the potential of human behavior, "Garbage in, garbage out." In the same way, to be different begins with our minds. Our minds must be holy if our behavior is to be holy.

It means that we live differently (1 Peter 1. 17-21)

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

A natural growth of our right thinking is right living. When we begin to think different thoughts, we begin to live a different life.



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It means that we love differently (1pet 1. 22-25)

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Love sets us apart. Love is the outward display of holiness. Love is a litmus test for Christians.

It is not just any kind of love. It is a Sincere love. It is genuine, authentic. Like God's love for us. Real love is intense and fervent. It means to love with all of our strength. Christian love is not a feeling. It is a matter of doing. It is spotless and clean. Men often speak about loving from the heart, but God speaks about loving from a pure heart.

In the first century an atheist went to report on the early church movement. He visited an area where Christians were living together. He intended to write something bad. To find some fault. To find a way to prove them wrong. Instead, he wrote, "Behold, how they love one another."

We have to love in such a way so others can see it and learn from our example.

It means that we talk differently (1 Peter 2:1-2)

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Different thinking leads to different living, Different living leads to different loving. Different loving leads to different talking. The words we use reveal most obviously if we are truly different or not. We live in a world that uses words to put people down and tear people up. Those who are different use their words to build instead of destroy.

Words are powerful. Words have the power to edify, to give life, but they also have the power to discourage and turn people away. Have you ever had your joy stolen because of someone's reckless words, or had your self-esteem destroyed by someone's hurtful words? Instead, we should speak and teach love and Christ.

Being Different.

Today the world has a desperate need for people who are different. We need people who will carry their faith into the office, into Congress, into society, into the school, into the home. We need people who will be different even if it will cost them their social popularity, their money, or their very lives.

One does not obtain that kind of being different except through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the one that issues the beat of the Different Drum. He is the one that calls us to stand out of the crowd, to be distinct, separate, unusual. He calls us to be different.

As we go throughout our daily lives, let's be different. Let's think differently, live differently, love differently, and talk differently.