

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.03.17

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Patrick Hite

Title: Things God Cannot Do

Recording:

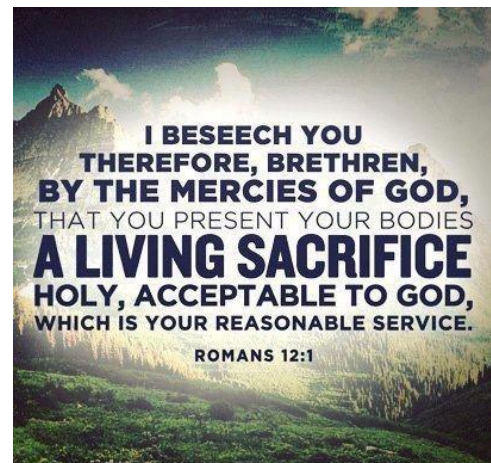
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/things-god-cannot-do

Speaker-PM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: Sacrifices Acceptable to God

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/sacrifices-acceptable-to-god



Good and Bad Growth, 3/17/24 By Sam Bunyard

We are to grow as individuals (II Pe. 1:5-9) and as a congregation (I Th. 4:10). We should grow “in grace and knowledge” (II Pe. 3:18) and as a body “for the edifying of itself in love” (Ep. 4:16). We will grow in number as we make more disciples for Christ (Mt. 28:18-20). These are good ways to grow.

There are also bad ways to grow. In a physical sense, good growth is demonstrated with the addition of muscle. We generally don't present the growth of our waistband as good. Nor do we recognize swelling as positive growth. We know the addition of fat is the result of poor dietary choices, and swelling is a sign of disease or injury. Can we not recognize that the same types of “growth” can be seen in some churches?

We know that positive growth comes from ingesting the milk of the word (I Pe. 2:2). The word is the diet that will help us grow in positive ways, but there are things we can have as part of our diet that will cause negative growth - spiritual fat and swelling. What we allow into our hearts and minds (diet) will greatly affect our spiritual condition (Ps. 1:1-2, Col. 3:1, Mt. 5:28).

When someone says they have a ‘growth’ it is never a good thing. Sometimes that can even refer to cancer! Paul told Timothy to “shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer” (II Ti. 2:16-17). There are those who “because of their itching ears will heap up for themselves teachers” who will tell the masses what they want to hear (II Ti. 4:3-4). This will lead to growth – but not the good kind! Any growth that comes from outside the word of God is like cancer (II Jn 9)!

As we work to grow individually and as a congregation, let us never compromise truth!

Justified By God, 3/15/2024 By Doy Moyer

Justification is not due to a mere man making an offering to God. Justification is due to God incarnate making an offering as both the reconciler and the One with whom reconciliation must be made. That is, through Christ, God was reconciling all things to Himself and making peace by the blood of the cross (Colossians 1:19-20). It took divine love to overcome divine wrath, and this love is manifested by the giving of the divine Son “that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery” (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Through Christ's death and resurrection, the spiritual powers that stand against God are defeated, sin is defeated, death is defeated, and the wrath of God is overcome (cf. Romans 5:6-11; Ephesians 1:19-23; Colossians 2:13-15). Both the plan and the carrying out of that plan come from God Himself, demonstrating that He is both righteous and renders as righteous those who have faith in Jesus (cf. Romans 2:23-26).

This is atonement. This is salvation. This is justification. This is grace. And so... “We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (II Corinthians 5:20-21).