

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.03.24

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Light

Recording:

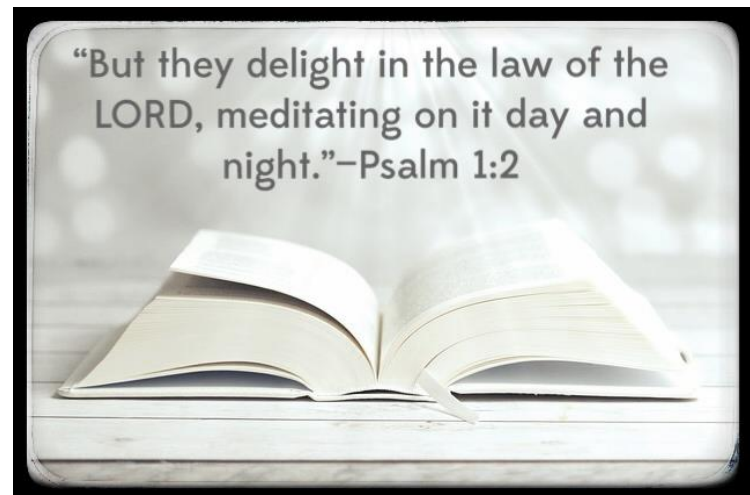
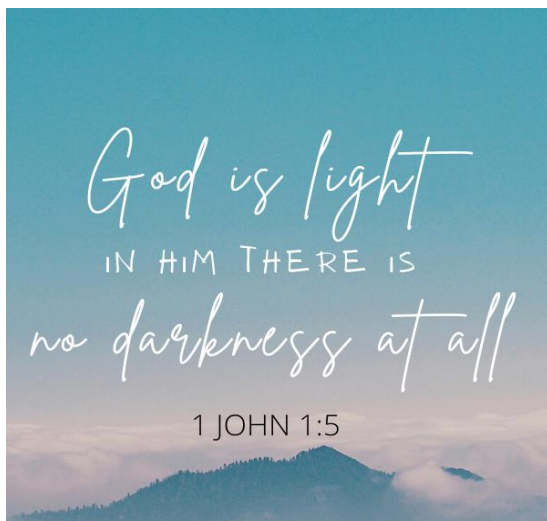
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/light

Speaker-PM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Meditation

Recording:

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Grace, Faith, and Works, 3/23/24 By Doy Moyer

Works won't save us, but failure to engage in them can condemn us. Likewise, being moral won't save us, but being immoral will condemn us (1 Cor 6:9-10).

This is a consistent message throughout Scripture. Salvation is "by grace through faith," and faith means that we will trust God and seek to do what He says. Even so, it is "not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph 2:8-9). Yet, let no one think that obedience is unimportant, for disobedience and disbelief are held as parallels (Heb 3:18-19). Failure to obey is a lack of faith, and without faith there is no pleasing God (Heb 11:6).

Grace, then, while beyond our full understanding, is not a "do what you want" license to sin (Rom 6:1-4; Jude 4), and it informs what it means "to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age" while we await the blessed hope (Titus 2:11-14). Grace makes us zealous for good works even while we know that those works are not earning our salvation. Works are expressions of our faith as we diligently make it our aim to please God.

In other words, "by grace through faith" is meaningful when faith is present, and faith is present when we trust God enough to submit ourselves to His will. The danger in any work we do, however, is that we get puffed up and boast as if we deserve some kind of honor for it rather than to recognize our humble state. As the Lord taught, "when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty'" (Luke 17:10).

God's grace should spark within us the desire to seek Him, obey Him, and thank Him for what He has done through Jesus Christ. Be reconciled to God!

"Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:1-2)

Piece of Clay, 3/15/2004 By Forrest Moyer

A little child has often been likened to a piece of clay that can be molded into whatever type of pottery that the potter (parent) has in mind. A little child is so pliable, so willing to be molded and so trusting. This can either be a fantastic opportunity or a tragic consequence depending on what the potter does. Solomon expresses this truth vividly when he says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). This is why Paul urged parents to "bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

When clay hardens, it is too late to mold it as you desire. So it is with children. In their young and tender years, they can be taught and guided into the way of the Lord, but as they grow older, they become set and fixed in the mold that was cast. You can't wait until a child is a teenager to mold him. It begins before he is born. It takes place while he is a baby, while he is a toddler, and while he is a pre-schooler. Do you realize that most of a child's molding has already taken place by the time he starts school? Potters (parents), how are you molding your child?