

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.05.05

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: You Have Heard It Said

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/you-have-heard-it-said

Speaker-PM: Kraig Benney

Title: How the Hebrews Fell

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/how-israel-fell

**You
have
heard
that
it
was
said
...**



Inv.Nr. 5516

But I say... Mt 5:21-22
But I say... Mt 5:27-
But I say... Mt. 5:31-
But I say... Mt 5:33-34
But I say... Mt 5:38-
But I say...Mt 5:43-44

**"Therefore let him
who thinks he
STANDS
take heed lest he fall."**

(1 Corinthians 10:12)

Drawing Strength from the Courage of Others, 5/1/2024 by Bill Hall

We should be thankful for wonderful examples of courage that spur us on to greater strength in the Lord's service.

Paul was just such an example: "And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear" (Philippians 1:14). These brethren, formerly timid and reticent, were drawing strength from the courage of Paul.

Other examples abound. Stephen's plea, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," surely had for its source of strength the forgiving spirit of the Lord (Acts 7:60). The Thessalonian church found a source of strength in the example of the churches in Judea (I Thessalonians 2:14). The Philippian church, a model of courage and conviction, could no doubt trace much of its strength back to the wonderful example of patience and equanimity demonstrated by Paul and Silas while in their midst. The Hebrew Christians were admonished to "remember them that had the rule over you, men that spake unto you the word of God; and considering the issue of their life, imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7).

Christians of this generation are similarly drawing strength from the courage of others.

Young men who refuse to miss services of the church to play on a ball team;
young women who refuse to be seen in public in scanty attire;
businessmen who would lose their jobs rather than compromise their convictions;
women who continue to adorn themselves in "meek and quiet spirits" whatever the sophisticated world thinks or says of them;
sick people who bear their afflictions with patience and faith;
elderly people who continue to attend worship when they are hardly able to go anywhere else;
dying people who demonstrate how Christian's ought to die;
All are sources of strength and courage for others facing similar circumstances. They share a common spirit with the great characters of the Bible: They see in their temptations, trials, afflictions, and persecutions a special opportunity to be like Christ, to demonstrate their fidelity to Him, and to provide a source of strength for those who might be weak and wavering around them. They seize the opportunity and stand, and we all are stronger because of them. Of these courageous people, this world truly is not worthy.

Are we, however, to be always on the receiving end of the strength of others? As we draw strength from the courage of others, we must, in turn, become sources of strength and courage. Others look to us. Each of us has a "charge to keep," "God to glorify," and "a present age to serve."



I Felt Compelled, 5/1/2024 By Sam Bunyard

From the start, King Saul was aggressive in making war with the Philistines. In response to a defeat in Geba, the Philistines gathered thousands of chariots and horses “and people as the sand which is on the seashore” (I Sam. 13:5). “When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits. And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling” (I Sam. 13:7-8).

Give Saul credit for staying while many of his men ran to hide! He stayed in Gilgal for seven days, waiting for Samuel to come make a sacrifice. That demonstrated a certain level of trust in God. However, when Samuel did not show up at the appointed time, Saul began to worry. Growing impatient, he performed the sacrifice that was to be done by Samuel himself.

When Samuel showed up just as Saul was finishing, Saul explained, “When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered at Michmash, then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.’ Therefore, I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering” (I Sam. 13:11-12). Saul allowed his fear to influence his trust in God. He did what he did because of the way he felt, rather than basing his actions on his knowledge of God’s will.

Samuel answered Saul, “You have behaved foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom will not continue” (I Sam. 13:13-14).

We must train ourselves not to base our actions on emotion, but on the word of God!