

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.05.26

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Naomi

Recording:

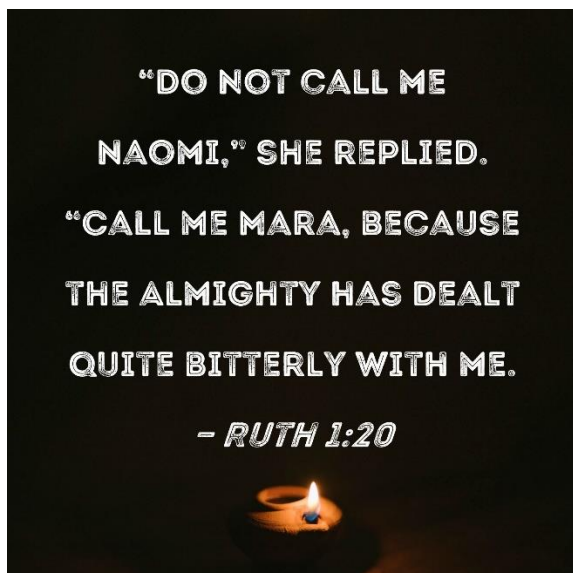
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/naomi

Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Types of Hearts

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/types-of-hearts



Parable of the Sower Heart Types

Blind Heart	Rocky Heart	Rebellious Heart	Remaining Heart
Heart's disposition blinds hearer from grasping God's Message.	Enthusiastic at first to God's Word, Rocky Heart shallow & lacks will to strengthen initial gift.	Heart partially commits to Christ, leaving disastrous vulnerability to worldly desires & concerns.	Heart fully dedicated to Jesus is firmly established, reaping fruit of righteousness plentifully.

Certainty in Uncertain Times, 5/23/25 By Sam Bunyard

Life is full of uncertainty. We are assured there is a time for both good and evil things to happen to us (Eccl. 3:11-8, 9:11-12). It can be easy to obsess over the future, even though we know we are limited in our knowledge and control over potential events.

This is why James wrote, “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that’” (Jas. 4:13-15).

While we can never be certain about so many things in this life, some things we can know for sure. God cares for us! “Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Mt. 6:31-33). With the certainty of God’s loving care for us, we should be able to keep our priorities straight and seek first His kingdom.

An aged and experienced King David wrote, “I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. He is ever merciful and lends; And his descendants are blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore. For the Lord loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off” (Ps. 37:25-28).

In the midst of life’s uncertainties, let us take comfort in the certainty of God’s love!

Receiving the Grace of God in Vain, May 23, 2024 by Terry Wane Benton

Have you thought about the fact that you could have received the grace of God in vain? That is a very real possibility. How can we receive it in vain?

"We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain" (II Corinthians 6:1).

Paul was "pleading" with the brethren about this. How could they have received the grace of God in vain? The grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (Titus 2:11). So, if you received the grace of God to give you the forgiveness of sins, but you didn't quit the fornication, adultery, covetousness, gossip and backstabbing others (Romans 1:18-32), then the grace that was designed to teach you to abandon that life of ungodliness and worldliness was "received in vain." That means you received it for nothing. You must have thought that you could "continue in sin that grace may abound" (Romans 6:1-6), but God's grace is not designed to work like that. If you did not learn from grace that you need to repent of sin, then you received it in vain, because God is not mocked. If you sow to the flesh, you will reap corruption (Galatians 6:7-8).

Grace teaches that you need to repent of sin, or else grace is received in vain. Jude said to be careful of those teachers who "turn the grace of God into licentiousness" (Jude 3-4). That means that some teachers are going to make you think that God's grace gives you license to continue in your favorite sin, and emboldens you to think that you will still go to heaven (I Corinthians 6:8-10). In that case, you received the grace of God in vain. If you think you can continue to live with your boyfriend or girlfriend, which is fornication, and that you can still benefit from the grace of God, you received the grace of God in vain. The grace of God must be allowed to teach you to "deny all ungodliness and worldly lust," and if you refuse to allow the grace of God to teach you this, then you receive it in vain. It will not benefit you at all. It will not wash away the sins you refuse to repent of (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30-31; II Corinthians 7:7-13). Are you allowing the grace of God to teach you to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts? That is the only way you can receive grace and it not be for naught! Whom God loves, He rebukes and chastens. Let His true grace be received to the end that it changes and transforms your principles, values, and whole life.