

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.06.30

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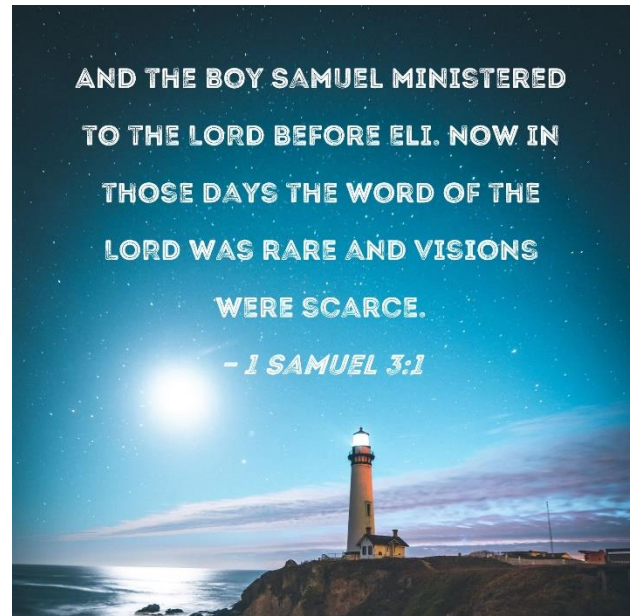
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Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Samuel

Recording:

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Articles

Going to Church, 6/20/2024 By Sam Bunyard

It has been said that too many churches are singing “Standing on the Promises” when they are only sitting in the premises. The Christian life is a lot more than just ‘going to church’. Our responsibilities and work are not confined to the walls of the building and our participation as members of the church is not limited to ‘office hours’ on Sundays and Wednesdays.

There is no such thing as a part-time Christian. The pattern of self-denial and self-sacrifice that is necessary for discipleship is a daily exercise (Lu 9:23)! The early Christians did not simply participate in cooperative spiritual activity a couple times a week but were a constant presence in one another’s lives (Ac 2:46)! From the time of Moses, the people of God were to give the whole of their being to God’s service (De 6:5), and His Word was to envelope every facet of their lives (De 6:6-9)!

It is easy for us to fall into the habit of someone who just ‘goes to church’. But what we should really want is to be an active participant in the Lord’s body! It is only when every part of the body does its share that the body is edified in love and grows (Ep 4:16).

We often sing, “there is room in the kingdom of God, my brother, for the small things that you can do; just a small kindly deed that may cheer another is the work God has planned for you.” Or from another hymn, “Oh the things we may do you and I, you and I; Oh the love we can give if we try”.

Our salvation does not exempt us from work but gives us meaningful work to do since we are “created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ep 2:10).

What do you have planned in service to God this week?

Sacrifice, 6/13/2024 By Warren King

“You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it...” - Ps 51:16

“Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices...” - Ps 51:19

On the surface, David appears to contradict himself. Does God desire sacrifice, or not? Perhaps the two verses we omitted will help to clarify his point. Verse 17: “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise.” Now, that’s not hard to understand! The first sacrifice we need to offer to God is a humble heart; one that is willing to hear, and penitently submit, to God’s Word.

Verse 18: “Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem.” This is simply a prayer for God’s divine protection and help in David’s efforts to strengthen God’s people. We make no proper sacrifice without first acknowledging our dependence on Him.

Contrast this heart of humility with the haughty attitude exhibited in the prayer of the Pharisee (Lu 18:10-14). His sacrifice, though technically correct, was not acceptable because it was not offered with a contrite heart. So yes, let’s get the sacrifice right; but to please God, let’s get the heart right, too