

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.09.22

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Don't Be Misled by False Teaching

Recording:

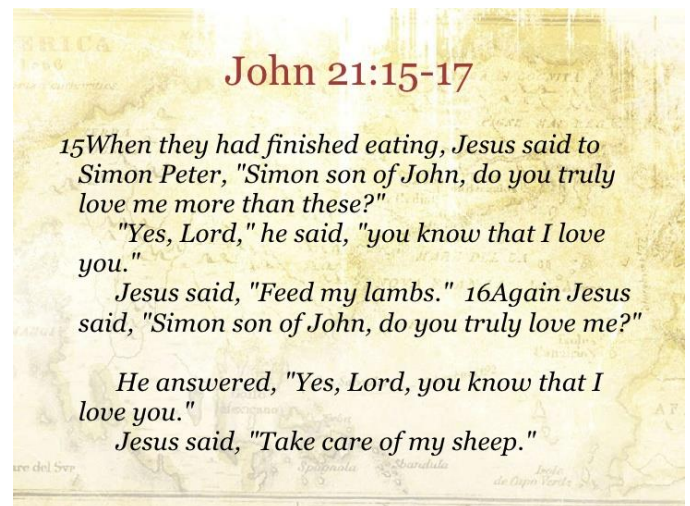
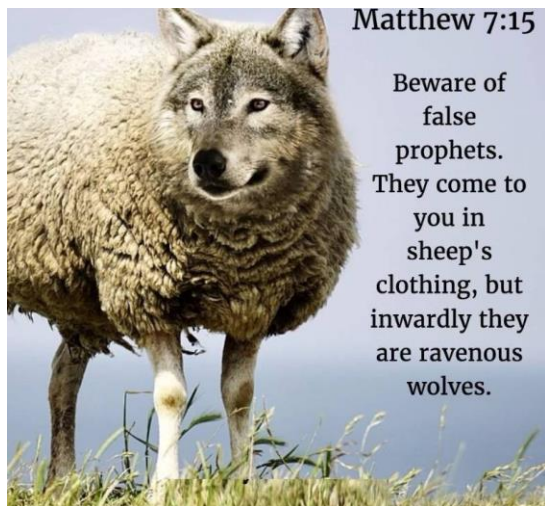
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/dont-be-misled-by-false-teaching

Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Committed Love of God

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/committed-love-of-god



Articles

Christianity And Tyranny, 9/21/2024 by Sam Bunyard

Many Christians fear living under a tyrannical government. There is certainly cause for concern in such circumstances! Historically, tyrannical governments have not been kind to God's people. The Hebrew author described those who "were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trials of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented" (Heb. 11:35-38).

Aquila and Priscilla were displaced from their homes because Rome had kicked the Jews out (Ac.18:2). John the Baptist was beheaded for preaching against Herod's adultery (Mt. 14). James was beheaded (Ac. 12:2) and the same was intended for Peter as a political move to keep unbelieving Jews happy.

Despite this persecution from tyrannical governments, God was still in control and His kingdom still grew. Daniel prophesied, "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (2:44). No matter what powers have attempted to suppress the truth of God's kingdom, they have never been successful!

In fact, God used these persecutions to spread His message. Those who have tried to oppose God have actually been of great use to Him. He often used wicked nations to punish Israel, and said His judgment was to purify His people (Isa. 1:25). In the beginning of the church, the gospel spread faster because people were scattered by persecution (Ac. 8:4)!

No matter what our political situation, let us always use it to God's glory!

The Worst of Sinners, 9/12/2024 By Sam Bunyard

"This is a faithful saying... that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life" (I Tim. 1:15-16).

Before his conversion, Paul was one of the worst kinds of people. He was persecuting the people of God even to the point of aiding in their deaths (Ac. 8:1; 26:10)! Jesus made it clear that persecution against His people was the same as persecuting Him (Ac. 9:5)! And yet, Jesus chose Paul to be his representative to all kinds of people in teaching them the gospel (Ac. 9:15).

One reason for this was to show that Jesus desires even the worst of sinners to repent and be a part of His family. Paul was an example for those who came after him to see that Jesus can forgive anyone – and wants to!

Paul went on to tell Timothy that some "concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme" (I Tim. 1:19-20). These fallen disciples were speaking out against the One who had been their Savior! They rejected His forgiveness and Hymenaeus went on to "overthrow the faith" of other Christians as well (II Tim. 2:17)! Even still, Jesus desired their salvation if they would only repent. In fact, He desires "all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:4)!

Therefore, Paul wrote, "I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men", including "kings and all who are in authority" (I Tim. 2:1-2). No matter how bad the sins of the sinner – God wants them to be saved! Let us pray and evangelize accordingly!