

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.10.06

Website: oakgrovecofc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

Sermon recordings

Click or type the short URL, or visit oakgrovecofc.org/Sermons.

Speaker-AM: Patrick Hite

Title: Helping Those New In The
Faith - Part 2

Recording:

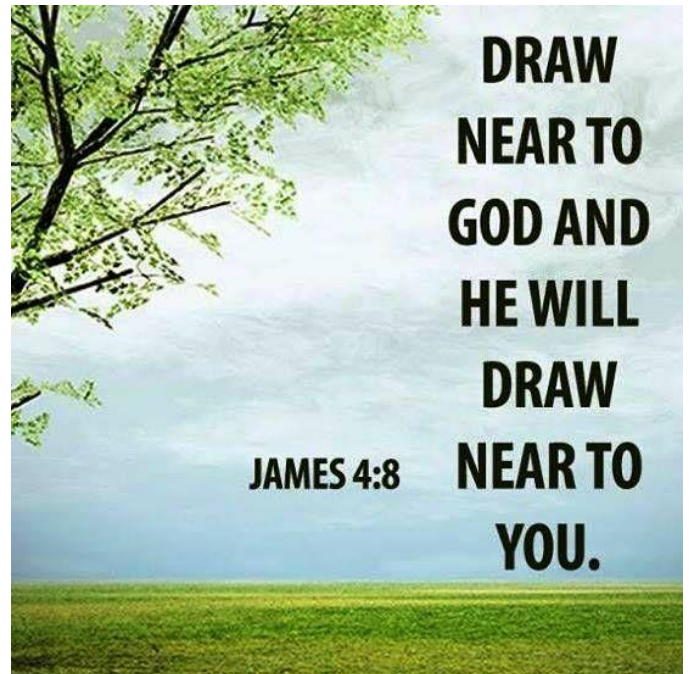
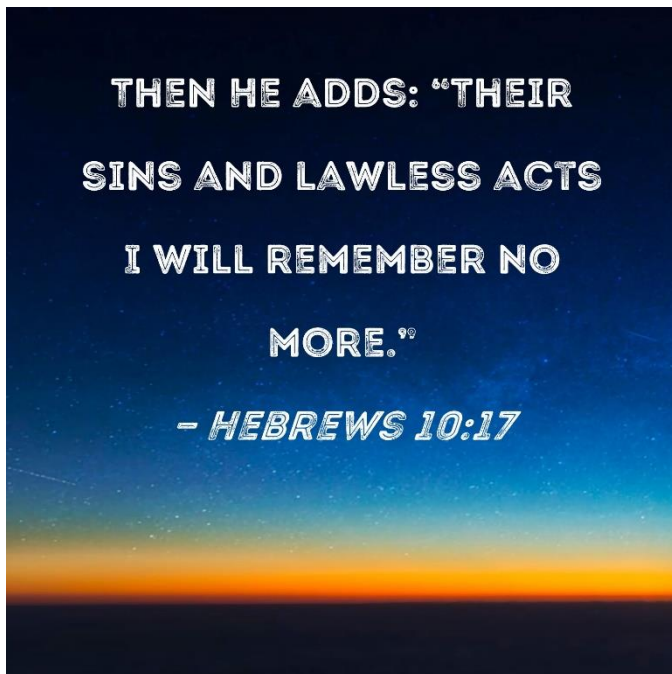
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/helping-those-new-in-the-faith-part2

Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Getting Closer To God

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/getting-closer-to-god



Articles

The Power of Adjectives, 10/3/2024 by Terry Wane Benton

One of my favorite verses on prayer is Ephesians 3:20. Notice the adjectives used. Taking out the adjectives, Paul said, "God is able to do...all we ask or think." Putting in the adjectives one at a time: God is able to do above all we ask or think. Then, "God is able to do abundantly above all we ask or think." Then, "God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think."

Do we realize what that means? For example, Paul asked the brethren at Ephesus to pray for Him while he was in chains at Rome (Ephesians 6:18-20). Shortly after writing this request, he wrote to the Philippians about how it "turned out" to further the gospel (Philippians 1:12-14). God turned a bad and limiting situation into a favorable situation that furthered the gospel. It was above all that the brethren at Ephesus asked or thought. It was abundantly above all they asked or thought. It was exceeding abundantly above all they asked or thought.

Putting our requests before the throne of God can lead to great things down the road. Don't lose sight of the power of prayer! Are you on praying terms with God?

God Seems so Mean, 10/4/2024 by Zeke Flores

One of the objections many have against God is that He seems so ... mean. Indeed, throughout a reading of the major prophets, God has consistently warned about the catastrophic devastation He would bring not only upon His own people but also upon pagan nations. Again and again, He denounced their behavior, whether it was sexual immorality (God gave the sexual urge to humans, and since He "invented" it, He has the right to regulate it), greed, oppression and extortion, theft, murder, or idolatry.

The implication is that man has a choice, which determines not only his immediate gratification but also his future condition. "But why can't I just get to do what I want?" some wonder. The truth is, you can. God gives each of us the will to choose and the information regarding the consequences of our choice. He'll punish offenses and reward obedience. And that's His right.

While some may grumble at a "mean" God who denounces and punishes what He doesn't like, it's important to realize that, as the Creator and Sustainer of all, He is absolutely within His authority to regulate human behavior.

So, we can heed His word and live according to His good pleasure, or we can ignore it and live according to our own selfish desires. But living according to His will doesn't mean life will be unbearably dull. You may find that it's the best decision you could have ever made. Choose, but choose carefully.

"I will judge you according to your ways and bring all your abominations upon you. ... According to their conduct I will deal with them, and by their judgments I will judge them. And they will know that I am Yahweh." (Ezekiel 7:3, 27).