

# Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.10.13

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## Sermon recordings

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

**Speaker-AM:** Josh Vinyard

**Title:** Instruments In Worship Part1

**Recording:**

[oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/instruments-in-worship-part-1](http://oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/instruments-in-worship-part-1)

**Speaker-PM:** Josh Vinyard

**Title:** Instruments In Worship Part2

**Recording:**

[oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/instruments-in-worship-part-2](http://oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/instruments-in-worship-part-2)



## Articles

### Sermon Or Storytime?, 10/6/2024 By Sam Bunyard

It is not wrong to quote human authors. Paul did it at Athens, though it was a brief And passing comment. There is a place for humor and pathos. Illustrations from the speaker's own experience have their place. But strong churches are not built by eloquence of expression, by snappy one-liners, endless stories about dogs, mothers, war heroes, or voyages into psychology. You know I speak the truth when I say that much preaching Today is pure psychobabble. Like Grapenuts, it is neither grapes nor nuts. It is heavy on [insert uninspired theologian name here], but light on [Scripture].... Young people in many places, considered the cream of the crop, have very little basic knowledge of the Bible.

They have grown up with spiritual pep talks, have come home excited from Bible Camps, yet they know little of basic truth." (Connie Adams) Sadly, this has become the popular preaching style even in many 'sound' churches. Just read a few verses, tell a few jokes and fill up the time with illustrations and entertaining anecdotes and you can make it big! This is the style many preachers my age aspire to excel in. More emotion, less substance. More experiencing, less equipping. More pathos, less logos. More of whatever The 'new thing' is, less Scripture.

Let's dispose of the theatrics and get back to that which can make us "complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (II Ti. 3:17)! We need More preachers like Ezra, who "read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading" (Neh. 8:8). We need more congregations who desire this kind of preaching, as Ezra's audience did when he preached from morning until midday from "the book" before "all who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law" (vss 1-3). May God restore the hearts of His people to love His word and seek after Him! And may they seek after Him without distraction!

### All Need Repentance, 10/13/2024 by Sam Bunyard

"There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, 'Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:1-3).

When bad things happen, it can feel like we are being singled out for punishment for one reason or another – and it can be discouraging. Sometimes difficulty is discipline from God (Heb. 12:5). Or, we may have to endure hardship to teach others a lesson (Job 1:6-12; I Pe. 2:18-3:2). Or perhaps, some events are simply a matter of "time and chance" (Eccl. 9:11).

Whatever the cause, we don't always have control over the things that happen to us in this life. But we do have control over how we respond to them – and what we choose to learn from them. Jesus told the people who inquired about the slain Galileans that it did not happen because they were worse than others. But their misfortune still carried an important lesson about sin and its consequences!

He provided another example. "Those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:4-5). Jesus' audience was wrong to assume that God had killed these people as punishment for their sin. But Jesus told them that if they did not repent of their sins they would suffer a similar fate! The reality is, all have sinned (Rm. 3:23) and are therefore in need of repentance!

Rather than making assumptions about the misfortunes of others, let's realize the consequences of our own actions – and repent!