

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.12.08

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Patrick Hite

Title: Forsaking Your Inheritance

Recording:



Speaker-PM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Jeremiah and Idolatry

Recording:



Genesis 25:29-34 (NKJV)

29 Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. 30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom. 31 But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." 32 And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?" 33 Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

**LIKE SCARECROWS IN A CUCUMBER PATCH,
THEIR IDOLS CANNOT SPEAK. THEY MUST BE
CARRIED BECAUSE THEY CANNOT WALK. DO
NOT FEAR THEM, FOR THEY CAN DO NO
HARM, AND NEITHER CAN THEY DO ANY
GOOD."**

- JEREMIAH 10:5

Articles

Doctrine Matters, 10/27/24 By Warren King

Preachers – especially the younger preachers – often receive advice on how to preach. For example, some want us to preach only ‘love’. They say doctrine is too divisive and that only our attitudes should matter. But Jesus did not think that way. It mattered to Him what people believed. For example, He taught that He was divine, and that those who did not hold that doctrinal position would be lost (Jn 8:24).

And Paul demanded unity on several doctrinal points. He rebuked some for believing and teaching that there would be no resurrection (1 Co 15:12f). He condemned the doctrine of salvation by merit (Gal 5:4) while James exposed the false doctrine of salvation by faith alone (Ja 2:24).

Yes, it does matter which doctrines we believe, for the things we believe lead directly to the things we do. If we believe, for instance, in the resurrection and the judgment to follow, then we will live like it. And if, on the other hand, we do not hold to the idea of a day of reckoning well, we will live like it as well.

Love matters, and attitude matters. But doctrine matters, too. Learn the truth – and believe it!

The Worst Of Sinners, 9/15/2024 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 (Acts 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!