

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2022.12.25

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Sam Bunyard
Title: Simplicity Of The Gospel
Recording:
tinyurl.com/SamSimple

Speaker-PM: Robbie Moreland
Title: Wavering Faith
Recording:
tinyurl.com/RobFaith

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God
will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Articles

Funnel Cake Christians, 10/09/2022, By Sam Bunyard

Modern Christianity is full of what I like to call ‘funnel cake religion’. It looks good and tastes great at first – but eat too much and you get sick! ‘Funnel Cake Christianity’ sure tastes sweet for a while, but when the rubber hits the road, it can’t help anyone in any real way. The congregant encounters

sin-induced difficulty, and because this perversion of Christianity is nothing but sweet, it is powerless to address the sins that are the source of the problem. The gospel may be offensive to some, but this is not a bad thing! In fact, the gospel necessitates that each of us be offended! When Peter preached the first sermon in Acts 2, it was not sunshine and rainbows that pricked peoples’ hearts. Rather, it was the assertion that they were responsible for the death of God’s Son! This is a key part of the gospel that each person must come to terms with – it should offend our conscience!

Paul wrote that it is good to feel a godly sorrow regarding past sins if that sorrow leads to repentance. Paul even said that he didn’t regret offending the Corinthians with his previous rebukes, because it led to them getting into a right relationship with God (2 Co 7:8-12).

‘Funnel Cake Christianity’ will taste sweet for a time, but it is powerless to save; and in the name of acceptance, it fails to recognize the sweetest story ever told – the true love of God forgiving those who betray Him (Ro 5:6-8). Some parts of the truth may be difficult for us to swallow, but God’s word will not make us sick. Rather, God knows that we are already sick and that His word will heal us (Mt 9:12).

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Ps 34:8).

Comparison and Humility, 09/17/2022, By Robbie Moreland

Many times in scripture we see comparisons made. We see a bad example, followed by a good one. These are there to give us real world examples, parables to give us theoretical examples, and situations to help us understand what we need to do to be pleasing to God. Let's take one example.

Luke 18:9-14

Also, He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

So, we see two different characters here. Two men. What did each do right, and what did one do wrong? Both went into the temple to pray. We know that prayer is a great thing, and something we all must do! In this, both men did well by coming to pray. However, the one who was supposed to be righteous, the Pharisee exalted himself. He made a show of it by praying about all the great things he was doing, and all the sinning he was avoiding. The Tax Collector, one who was generally a sinner and a thief though, had the better attitude. He instead humbled himself, acknowledged his sin, and exalted God instead.

Two men here. Only one did what was right in this instance. When you pray, worship, do a kind deed, help someone out, or anything else, are you doing it for your own exaltation or gain? Or are you doing it for compassion, and the Lord's glory? Make sure before you act, you are doing whatever it is for the right reason, and ensure you do it humbly.