

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.01.29

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Why Elders Are Important To God

Recording:

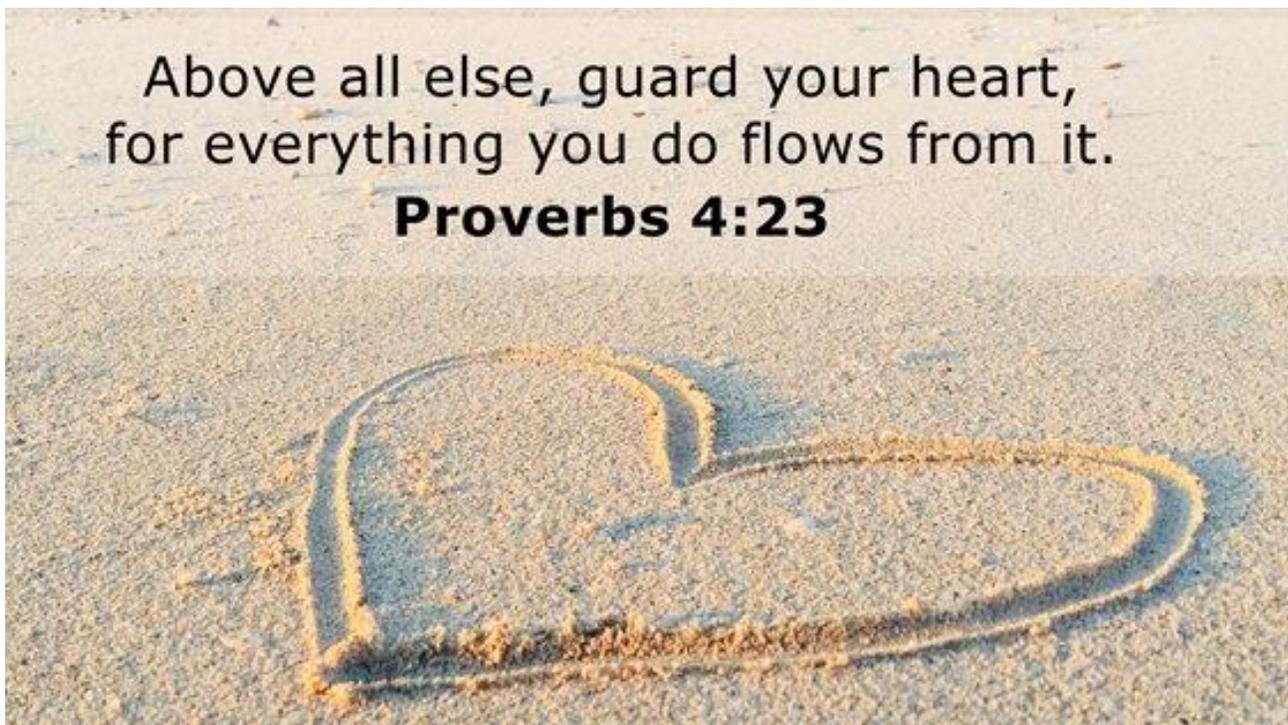
tinyurl.com/JoshElder1

Speaker-PM: Kraig Benney

Title: Overcoming Pressure From The World

Recording:

tinyurl.com/KraigPressure



Dying Wishes, 1/22/23, By Sam Bunyard

Over the course of his life, John Quincy Adams amassed a collection of over six thousand books! His dying wish was that a stone structure be erected to house his library in a building that would not be susceptible to fire. Adams believed that the preservation of his books was a way of keeping his legacy alive. This wish is meaningful, but its consequence pales in comparison to these dying wishes in the Bible.

Peter was prepared for his martyrdom by Christ (Jn 21:19). He spent his life from that point forward with the understanding that he would be put to death for the sake of the gospel. Near the end of his life, Peter wrote to Christians encouraging them to “make their call and election sure” (2 Pe 1:10), a concept he must have held as highly important at this late stage in his life.

To do this, Peter urged his brethren to return to the basics of the faith. “I will remind you of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent...” (2 Pe 1:12-14). Peter’s concern at the end of his life was not his own legacy, but the continued faithfulness of his brethren.

Likewise, Paul at the end of his life wrote to young Timothy: “I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you” (2 Ti 1:6). Paul’s concern was that the gospel continue to be preached, so that when others’ departures were “at hand”, they too could say, “I have fought the good fight!” What impression will you leave on this world?

Live Peaceably, 1/17/23, By W. I. Helterbrand

The Bible is full of things that are difficult to do. Among these is the instruction to repay evil with good. That concept is profound for our current society. According to the world, we should stand up for ourselves and fight back, we should take an eye for an eye. The world would have you believe that this behavior is appropriate for a Christian.

In Romans 12:17-21, Paul gives us insight into how we should handle situations when people are opposed to us. He says “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ Therefore, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

The world would say that repaying evil for evil is just, but Paul says that evil done to you does not give you the right to repay evil to your enemy. Rather, it is commanded that we should allow God to be the righteous judge and give out the repayments. Our job is to do good, even to those who do evil to us. By doing so, we overcome evil in the same way that Jesus did. He gave His life for the very people who shouted “crucify him!” It should be our goal to be like Jesus in this way.