

# Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.03.05

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## Sermon recordings

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

**Speaker-AM:** Steve Helterbrand

**Title:** Working Out Our Salvation

**Recording:**


[tinyurl.com/SteveSalvation](https://tinyurl.com/SteveSalvation)

**Speaker-PM:** Kraig Benney

**Title:** Judgement

**Recording:**

[tinyurl.com/KraigJudgement](https://tinyurl.com/KraigJudgement)



This is the day the Lord has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Psalms 118:24*

### Watching For Jesus, 3/3/2023 By Sam Bunyard

A recent study reported on the popularity of various sermon texts. By far, the most popular sermon category for last year was the end times. Sermons on Judgement Day have reportedly increased by around six times since the year 2020. It's hardly surprising that the most popular sermon topics were closely tied to the COVID-19 virus and political elections. Many religious thinkers believe that disease and political unrest are signs that herald the pending destruction of earth. Do these concerns have their root in Biblical teaching?

Jesus said of the end: "of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father knows" (Mt. 24:36). Jesus told His disciples that there would be no signs about the end of time. "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming... the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Mt. 24:42, 44).

Peter wrote that "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night" (I Pe. 3:10). A thief does not announce his coming, nor does he come in the daylight when he can be seen. Paul wrote that sudden destruction will come when those who are of the darkness say "Peace and safety!" (I Th. 5:3). By contrast, as those who are in darkness sleep, those who are of the light are soberly watching for His coming: "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God" (I Th. 5:6; II Pe. 3:12).

Are you looking for His return in hope, or in fear? If you fear that Day, we have some work to do! How sweet is the peace the faithful Christian feels as the Lord declares, "I am coming quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Re. 22:20).

## Traditionalists Vs Progressives, 2/27/2023 by Gardner Hall

There are two opposite but equally harmful attitudes among churches I know:

### **The Overly Compliant Spirit**

It's the spirit that accepts without question whatever leaders or church traditions have historically taught. It declares, "my family has been in this church for years, and whatever they say is what I am going to accept. Our church has never taught that! Don't rock the boat!"

This is not the spirit of the truth-loving Jews in Berea who were willing to search the scriptures daily to make sure that what Paul said was true (Acts 17:11). Those who determined it was true had to leave their Jewish synagogues and go outside the camp to suffer with Christ.

### **The Restive Spirit**

While the traditional spirit assumes that everything that has been taught for a number of years must be true, the immature restless spirit assumes the opposite – that it is automatically suspect. It supposes that something new, trendy, or at least different must be better. It's the "throw out the baby with the bathwater" mentality that is too hurried and judgmental to be discerning. For the restive spirit, the grass is always greener somewhere else, even where there are alarming doctrinal errors and an abundance of historical skeletons. It is inherently unstable, "tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14).

Sometimes the overly compliant and the bold nonconformist highlight each other's extremes to justify their own, but they both miss it. Christ's way is neither that of the stodgy traditionalist nor the "ants in the pants" progressive. It thoughtfully and unhurriedly sorts through different approaches to service to God holding fast to what is good but rejecting what doesn't come from heaven. It respects wisdom from the past but is also willing to test it to ensure it is truly from God. It makes needed adjustments to stay on the right path, even if that means ruffling some feathers.

We live in an unstable world with an abundance of worldly philosophies and human traditions. Neither the overly compliant temperament nor the spirit that demonstrates "a touch of rebellion" give us the firm anchor of stability that we need. Only the mature way of Christ can do that.