

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.06.04

Website: oakgrovecofc.org

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Joe Greer Gospel Meeting Sermon recordings

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

A great thank you to Joe Greer for his efforts in travel, study, preparation, and presentation of 5 great faith building lessons from Gods word.

A new webpage has been setup to view/listen/download this series of lessons, as well as the normal links below.

tinyurl.com/JoeGreer2023

June 2 PM:

Title: Evidence That Cannot Be Denied

Recording:

tinyurl.com/JoeEvidence

June 3 PM:

Title: Almost Persuaded

Recording:

tinyurl.com/JoePersuaded



June 4 AM1:

Title: My Church

Recording:

tinyurl.com/JoeChurch

June 4 AM2:

Title: Lamb of God

Recording:

tinyurl.com/JoeLambOfGod

June 4 PM:

Title: Beware – Hungry Lion

Recording:

tinyurl.com/JoeHungryLion

Lame Sacrifice, 3/23/2016 By Robbie Moreland

Pretend for a moment you are living during the time of the old testament. You are a faithful Jew, and you are a rancher owning cattle. It is now the time of the year for the offering of blood sacrifice for God. It is time to make the selection of which calf to offer, and you have 3 to choose from. The first is the prize calf. It is the strongest, largest, and most healthy calf you have raised. The second is pretty good. Its average, maybe even a little above average, but nothing too special. The last one is below average. It's small, thin, kind of sickly, and probably won't last but a few more months unless it gets better.

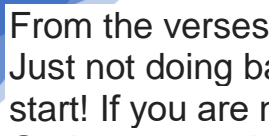
Which do you offer to God? The Lame, the average, or the best?

Would you give that lame sacrifice because it seems like the easiest, and best for you? And would be too hard to give the best on up?

Malachi 1:6-14

6 “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?” says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’ 7 You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ In that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is to be despised.’ 8 But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?” says the Lord of hosts. 9 “But now will you not entreat God’s favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?” says the Lord of hosts. 10 “Oh that there were one among you who would shut the [m]gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the Lord of hosts, “nor will I accept an offering from [n]you. 11 For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord of hosts. 12 “But you are profaning it, in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.’ 13 You also say, ‘My, how tiresome it is! And you disdainfully sniff at it,” says the Lord of hosts, “and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?” says the Lord. 14 “But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King,” says the Lord of hosts, “and My name is feared among the nations.”

We are told in Romans that we are living sacrifices. Are we the lame sacrifice as we read in Malachi? Is that us? Is that you? And is that me?...



From the verses we read in Malachi, we can derive some things to study upon. Just not doing bad is not good enough! If you are not doing bad, great! That's a great start! If you are not doing good though, what "GOOD" are you to the Lord? God wants workers, not idlers!

2 Timothy 2:15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Acts 20:35 - we are told to work HARD

If you are a supervisor, do you not love hard workers? And I bet you wouldn't like bad or idle workers? God will think the same of us if we are not doing His works!

God gives us his thoughts in multiple scriptures and parables.

- Ephesians 5:15 - Redeem the time!
- Matthew 25:14-30 - parable of the talents

We have to use what is given to us. Some might work harder with their talents, but we have to at least work, unlike the 1 talent man, who did nothing, and got his reward.

Maybe we say life is too hard... Life should be hard. We are told to be living sacrifices! Tribulation, pain, sorrow, time, and effort are just some of the things we are told we will have to endure.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 8:18-21

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

So, the suffering we have now will be worth it. Let us be the prize sacrifice that God will accept, and not the lame and useless one that he will discard.

1Cor 15:58:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.