

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.06.18

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Nate Vick

Title: Evidence

Recording:

tinyurl.com/NateEvidence

Speaker-PM: Rob Moreland

Title: Where Do We Go At Death?

Recording:

tinyurl.com/RobDeath



**DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THOSE WHO KILL THE BODY
BUT CANNOT KILL THE SOUL.
RATHER, BE AFRAID OF THE ONE WHO CAN
DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY IN HELL.**

MATTHEW 10:28

Articles

Wisdom in Learning God's Commands, 6/16/2023 By Doy Moyer

The ethics of Christians fall under the category of virtue. Virtue ethics is grounded in the attributes and character of God, for all virtue flows from Him. While there is an obligation of following rules (God's commandments), there is a significant and vital component of learning wisdom. Why? Because, for the most part, the New Testament does not give a list of rules or specified do's and don'ts. There is some of that (e.g., [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#)), but even then, we are expected to learn the principles involved in what is specified.

This is why the Hebrews writer can say, "*Solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil*" ([Hebrews 5:14](#)). The ability to discern is wisdom. This is also why it is so fallacious to argue that something is okay just because the Bible doesn't specifically say it is wrong. That argument is grounded in a lack of wisdom and is instead looking merely at rules. If everything were spelled out specifically, there would be no need to discern.

Wisdom is the domain of the mature who are seeking to glorify God in everything they do and say. While we all fail at this, it is also wise to get back up after a fall and continue on the path of seeking to please God. Virtue is not a one-off action, but a steadfast, life-long journey over hills and valleys, difficulties and triumphs.

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,
and whatever you get, get insight.
Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;
she will honor you if you embrace her.
She will place on your head a graceful garland;
she will bestow on you a beautiful crown" (Proverbs 4:7-9).



The Fight Isn't Over 'Til It's Over, 6/18/23 By Warren King

Students of the book of Judges are familiar with the 'cycle of sin' – sin, servitude, sorrow, and salvation. It describes a repetitive pattern in the nation of Israel at the time (and throughout most of their history, for that matter).

Elements of that 'cycle' are actually very good. God's salvation, for example, is always welcome – whether we are saved from the oppressions of life or the bondage of sin. And sorrow for sin is also a good thing. After all, it's "godly sorrow" that leads to repentance (2 Co 7:10). And even servitude, in the earthly sense, can serve a useful purpose. As a form of chastening, it has the potential to strengthen us – if we will allow it to do its work (He 12:4-11), Ja 1:2-4, De 8:2-3, etc).

But one element of the 'cycle of sin' has no redeeming value whatsoever – the element of sin. And how ironic that in the 'cycle of sin' it is God's salvation that sets the stage for future sin – and the renewing of the cycle.

But this is no indictment against God. It simply underlines the ever-present danger of apathy on the part of those who have experienced salvation. Like the Laodiceans some 1400 years later, we can become lukewarm – and thereby useless to God (Re 3:16).

Such examples should serve as a wakeup call today for the people of God. The welcome contentment that comes with being a Christian (Ph 4:11) can set the stage for our spiritual lethargy and demise, if we are not careful.

Remember, the fight ain't over 'til it's over – and it ain't over 'til you're dead.