

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.08.13

Website: oakgrovecofc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

Sermon recordings

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

Newsletter Archive

oakgrovecofc.org/articles

Speaker-AM: Jamie Rinehart

Title: Psalm 32

Recording:

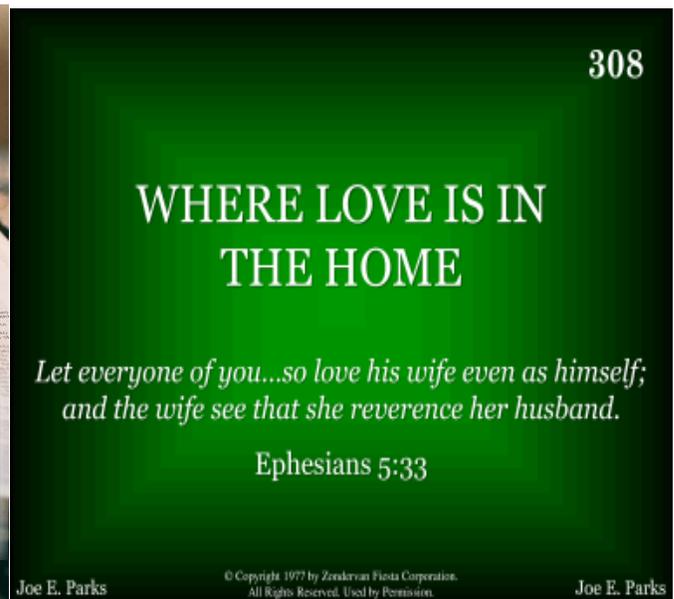
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/psalm-32

Speaker-PM: Kraig Benney

Title: Where God Is In The Home

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/where-god-is-in-the-home



Doing Good, 8/8/2023 By Isaac Helterbrand

Christians should be doing good works. That is a simple fact of what the Christian life is supposed to be. However, we often get carried away with the struggles of our earthly lives and forget to keep an eye out for opportunities to do good things. The Bible commands us to be seeking the good of others, so we should always have our eyes open for opportunities, unwilling to miss a chance to show the compassion and sacrificial attitude of Jesus in our lives. Remember, doing good works involves more than doing the obvious and easy things we find to do for the Lord in our lives.

Our good works need to be for God's glory, not our own. This is sometimes easier said than done. How often do you see a post on Facebook that essentially says, "Look at what I did! Glory to God!" Should we not just allow God to glorify Himself through our actions? During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught on how to accomplish good works.

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly" (Matthew 6:1-4)

The way Jesus explains it, our reward comes from God who sees in secret IF we accomplish our good deeds in a discrete manner, not "sounding a trumpet" or claiming any glory for ourselves.

Sometimes, we don't see immediate rewards from the good deeds we do. It can become a weariness to us to do something good and give up our time, energy, and resources, and seem to get nothing in return. Despite these feelings, **our good works need to be consistent and opportunistic.** Making good works habitual and remembering that we will be rewarded in due time by God will keep us from losing our motivation. Paul wrote these words in Galatians 6:9-10,

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Paul teaches here that we should do good **to all people, as we have opportunity, and do so with consistent zeal and fervor.** Make sure you are actively looking for chances to do charitable and good things for people this week, and through that, display the likeness of Jesus in your life.

There Will Be a Rapture, 8/10/23 by Terry Wane Benton

If we consider that the words "caught up" in [I Thessalonians 4:17](#) are translated as "rapture" in Latin, then there is going to be a "caught up" (rapture) moment. So, the word is there in Latin, and since the verse says we will be "caught up together with them in the clouds," then it will happen, and I believe in **that** kind of rapture.

However, many denominations have distorted this verse and taught that there will be a secret rapture, a snatching away of the saints from the earth, while sinners go through a seven-year tribulation period on earth, and people won't know what happened to those Christians. **That** doctrine is not taught in the Bible. In this text, there is nothing secret about it. "*The Lord **Himself** will descend from heaven with a **shout**, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God*" ([I Thessalonians 4:16](#)).

These are all attention-getters, not secretive at all. So, being "caught up" (rapture) will have everyone's full attention. The dead in Christ will rise first and the living saints will be caught up together with them. It won't be for mere seven years. The text says the saints will "*meet the Lord in the air. And thus we will **always** be with the Lord.*" Now this text is telling what will happen to the righteous. Other texts show that the unrighteous, those who neglect so great salvation ([Hebrews 2:1-4](#)) will be judged ([John 12:48](#); [Acts 17:30-31](#)) and sentenced to the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels ([Matthew 25:33ff](#)).

There will be one resurrection of the just **and** the unjust ([Acts 24:15](#)). A (singular) resurrection of the just and unjust. Not one resurrection of the just, then seven years of tribulation on earth, then another long period on earth, and then another resurrection. There is one last day of mortal life on Earth. When Jesus comes, He will pour out vengeance on the ungodly ([II Thessalonians 1:7-9](#)) and reward the faithful.

I hope you are planning on the heavenly reward and are preparing for the Day of the Lord so that you can be among those who are "caught up" together to meet the Lord in the air, and live forever in immortal bliss with the Lord Jesus Christ. That will be most glorious for the people of God, but a day of great misery for the unprepared. Use your time wisely to prepare!