

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.08.27

Website: oakgrovecofc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

Sermon recordings

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

Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Giving

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/giving-2

Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Living Righteously

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/living-righteously

Each of you should give
what you have decided in your
heart to give, not reluctantly
or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7



Whoever pursues righteousness and love
finds life, prosperity and honor.

Proverbs 21:21



Once for All Delivered, 8/22/2023 by Terry Wane Benton

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" ([Jude 1:3](#)).

This last phrase means the faith, the teaching we are called to believe, has been delivered and it is once for all people and all time delivered. This was affirmed by Judas before the first century came to a close. Peter said *"all things pertaining to life and godliness"* had already been given ([II Peter 1:3](#)). There was no waiting for later church tradition to complete the needed knowledge. It was complete already! Paul affirmed to the brethren at Colossi that they were already *"complete in Christ"* ([Colossians 2:10](#)). Later human traditions would not complete them. They already had all the needed resources. The faith was once for all time delivered to the saints in the first century. Later centuries and traditions would not add to the completion. Paul said that the scriptures made the man of God *"completely furnished"* ([II Timothy 3:16-17](#)) unto every good work. Later traditions would not complete the incomplete man of God. All was provided and completely furnished the man of God in the first century.

This all means that what completely furnished the man of God in the first century would also completely furnish the man of God in the 21st century. It was "once for all" people and once for all time delivered to the saints.

All 27 books of the New Testament were in play in the first century and were revealed and confirmed for the benefit of all people for all time. Jesus had promised His apostles that they would be guided *"into all truth"* ([John 16:13](#)). They would not die and leave that promise unfulfilled. It was promised to them and they saw that mission complete before they all died and that century ended. They saw it "once for all delivered". They knew the brethren for all time to come had the complete testimony of Jesus providing the knowledge of Christ Jesus and "all things" pertaining to life and godliness ([II Peter 1:2-4](#)). What they had in the first-century scriptures was enough for all people for all time. The apostles had declared *"the whole counsel of God"* ([Acts 20:27](#)), which means there were no missing parts that would later give a larger and improved version of God's revelation. Paul got it by revelation of the Spirit and wrote it down for all to read and learn all that Paul knew, which was the whole counsel ([Ephesians 3:3-5](#)).

They had all they needed without the Quran that came five centuries later. They did not have the Book of Mormon, nor the creeds and traditions so vital to later churches like the Orthodox church or the Roman Catholic church. They did not need the Westminster Confession of Faith. They had all they needed in the scriptures. They only had the responsibility to *"contend earnestly for the faith"* that was once for all delivered. We don't contend earnestly for the faith by compromising it and adding to it or trading it off for the doctrines and traditions of men. Believe enough is provided in the Scriptures and then dedicate your heart and life to contending earnestly for it.



Young Jeremiah, 8/25/2023 By Sam Bunyard

When Jeremiah was just a young man, God came to him and said, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jer. 1:5). What a terrifying experience this must have been! The messages Jeremiah would deliver for God would not be popular and he would deliver them to powerful men.

Jeremiah replied to God, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.” How could such a young man be qualified to be God’s messenger? Who would listen to him? Yet, God had chosen him specifically for this purpose. It was not Jeremiah’s qualifications that were important, but that the messages he would deliver originated with God.

“Do not say, ‘I am a youth’, for you shall go to all to whom I send you. And whatever I command you, you shall speak” (Jer 1:7). “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth...” (Jer 1:9). The words Jeremiah would speak were not his own, so his youthfulness did not matter. When it comes to preaching and teaching, the only qualification needed is that God’s word be on the lips of the speaker – not human wisdom or manmade tradition.

Having access to the word of God fully equipped young Jeremiah to perform the task at hand. Beyond even the promise of divine inspiration, God promised to protect him as he delivered difficult messages to powerful men. “Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you” (Jer 1:8). “For behold, I have made you this day a fortified city and an iron pillar... they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail” (Jer 1:18-19).

Today, as we have been fully equipped by God’s inspired word (II Ti 3:17), let us have the boldness of Jeremiah as we deliver His message to a lost and contrary world!