

# Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.09.24

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## Sermon recordings

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

**Speaker-AM:** Josh Vinyard

**Title:** Imitators of God

**Recording:**

[oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/imitators-of-god](http://oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/imitators-of-god)

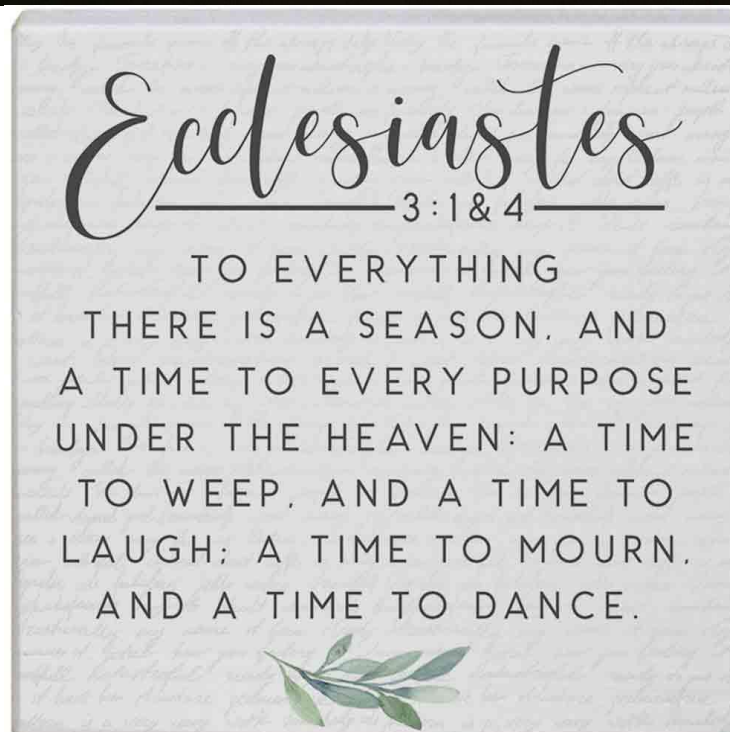
**Speaker-PM:** Tyler Glidden

**Title:** Seasons

**Recording:**

[oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/seasons](http://oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/seasons)

**BE IMITATORS OF GOD,  
THEREFORE, AS BELOVED  
CHILDREN,  
- EPHESIANS 5:1**



## Why the Change? 09/25/2023 By Unknown


When the gospel was preached at Corinth, those who were fornicators, adulterers, and homosexuals stopped practicing those sins. "Such were some of you" (I Corinthians 6:8-11). Did the preachers actually preach against those lifestyle choices? Did no one worry that this kind of preaching was not politically correct?

Are people being convicted of sin in our preaching of the gospel today? How will people know they need the remedy of sin in Jesus if they do not first know what sin is and how serious a malady it is?

Some at Corinth were thieves, covetous, and drunkards, but the preaching of the gospel made them realize they needed to quit. Some were revilers and extortioners, but the gospel made them want to quit that lifestyle.

Why the change? Because the gospel is about the remedy for sin, and sin is identified so that people realize it is wrong, and they are brought to realize that if they do not cease the practice of sin they are choosing eternal separation from God. Sin still separates us from God, but if we repent of sin, we can be forgiven and reconciled back to God (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30-31).

Change comes by identifying the problem and offering the solution. The gospel does both, and that is why "such were some of you" instead of "such are some of you." We need to identify sin today in preaching the truth of the gospel. Souls are at stake, and we are the watchmen in charge of warning and telling solutions.



## **Staring At The Sign, 9/23/2023 By Sam Bunyard**

Imagine for a moment that you have planned a trip to the Grand Canyon. You've been waiting your whole life for an opportunity to see it with your own eyes! Finally, after the seventeen-hour road trip, you are getting close! You slow down to read a sign to see where you are. It reads 'Grand Canyon' and has an arrow pointing in the direction you need to go! Excited, you get out of your car to look at the sign and get your picture taken with it. Then you get back in the car, turn around, and drive back to Arkansas. You were so focused on the sign, you completely missed what it was pointing you towards!

Of course, this story is ridiculous – but something similar happened with the signs that Jesus performed in the New Testament! One such sign was when Jesus miraculously fed five thousand people with only five barley loaves and two small fish. The next day, when the crowds found Him again, Jesus rebuked them. “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him” (Jn 6:26-27).

These people were so busy staring at the sign, they missed the Grand Canyon! Distracted by the unlimited buffet of bread and fish, they missed the Messiah they had been waiting for their whole lives standing right before them!

We do not experience miracles like this today. But do we ever get caught staring at something that is supposed to direct our attention to God, instead of focusing on Him? The social aspects of assembly? The pleasant sound of worship? The beauty of nature? The joy of answered prayer?

Pay close attention – and don't get caught staring at the sign!