

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.11.19

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Jamie Rinehart

Title: Tax Collectors

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/tax-collectors

Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Pillar of Truth

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/pillars-of-truth

AFTER THIS, JESUS WENT OUT AND
SAW A TAX COLLECTOR NAMED
LEVI SITTING AT THE TAX BOOTH.

“FOLLOW ME,” HE TOLD HIM,

– LUKE 5:27

Although I hope to come to you soon,
I am writing you these instructions
so that, if I am delayed, you will
know how people ought to conduct
themselves in God's household,
which is the church of the living
God, the pillar and
foundation of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

The Meaning of Life, 11/21/2023 By Robbie Moreland

What is the meaning of life?

Depending on who you asked, what time of life they were in, their experiences, goals, relationships, and more, their answer would be different. The question might be slightly different too, but has the same thought and weight behind it.

Why are we here? What is our purpose? Why was I born? Of course, we often go to Ecclesiastes for this, and can likely quote it on command.

Ecc 12:13-14

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

But, with so many philosophies out there claiming to be the answer, we should consider studying what the Lord has said on these things more in depth so we can understand what we should do in this life. Sometimes human philosophy gets engrained in our minds instead of what the Word teaches.

This is a challenge for you this week. How is your life with God? Have you been studying as you should? If you are struggling, make it right, and your life will be easier knowing the peace of Christ, and what your role in His kingdom is meant to be.

Col 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

**Fear of Truth, 11/19/2023 by James W. Adams (1914-2013),
taken from the book Words Fitly Spoken, p. 60**

My daughter's friend expressed great interest in the doctrine of "Premillennialism." It so happened that I was at that time engaged in a series of studies involving the subject on a television program. My daughter suggested to her friend that she might tune in, watch, and listen. Her friend said, "Is he for it or against it?" When informed I was opposed to it, my daughter's friend said, "In that case, I don't want to hear it!"

There are many who feel the same way. They refuse to hear or read anything contrary to their preconceived beliefs and practices lest they find their cherished idols to be mortal delusions. On the other hand, truth has nothing to fear from investigation. Like pure silver, the more you rub it, the more it shines. It is said that "a philosopher of Florence could not be persuaded to look through one of Galileo's telescopes lest he should see something in the heavens that would disturb him in his belief of Aristotle's philosophy" (Buck). So it is with many; they fear testing their beliefs by the word of God lest they find them to be untrue.

"Present your case,' the LORD says. 'Bring forward your strong arguments,' The King of Jacob says. Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; as for the former events, declare what they were, that we may consider them and know their outcome. Or announce to us what is coming; declare the things that are going to come afterward, that we may know that you are gods; Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together. Behold, you are of no account, and your work amounts to nothing; he who chooses you is an abomination" (Isaiah 41:21-24).

"But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing" (Zechariah 7:11).