

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.02.18

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Sermon recordings

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

Speaker-AM: Rob Moreland

Title: Doors

Recording:

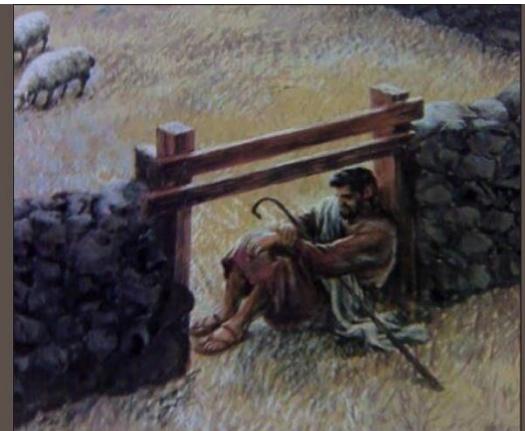
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/promises-of-god

Speaker-PM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: Promises Of God

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/promises-of-god



John 10:7

**Truly truly,
I say to you,
I am the Door
of the sheep**

HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU TO
BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS? DO
NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE
DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD
YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER
YOU GO."

- JOSHUA 1:9



News, Announcements, and Prayer Requests

- Jim B fell but is doing ok.
- Nancy S, Amos C, Rebecca B, Jean B were not feeling well.
- John C was traveling for work.
- Josh V and family were out of town
- John N and family were out of town
- LJ traveling to STL for doctor appointment 2/19

Articles

Can We Know God? 2/17/2024 by Terry Wane Benton

We must "believe that He is" (Hebrews 11:6) and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him, but knowing He exists and knowing Him are still two different things. I can know you exist without knowing you. The second is deeper in significance than the former. Knowing you exist is a step in the right direction of getting to know you. I could never get to know you if I did not know you existed, and seeking God, groping for Him, and finding Him in Jesus are key to knowing God more personally and meaningfully.

Jeremiah prophesied that the New Covenant would be different than the Sinia Covenant in that knowing God occurs in a different order. Under the Old Covenant, you were born into the covenant of Israel, grew, and were taught to "know the Lord," but under the New Covenant, you would be taught first to know the Lord and then would enter the covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34). You don't enter the covenant without first knowing the Lord. So, there is the answer! You can know the Lord, and you must know the Lord, or else you will never have your sins forgiven and will not be in covenant with God.

Jesus came in the flesh to declare God to us in the most knowable way. If you learn Christ, you learn God. If you know Christ, you know God. So, studying the testimony of Christ and the words of Christ and coming to understand Christ's love, mission, and righteousness are all the things involved in getting to know God. Jesus was sent to represent the Father to us so we could know God. If you know Jesus, and the Spirit gave us the complete testimony and confirmation of Jesus (John 1:1-14; 20:30-31; 16:13), then you know all you need to know about the Father. Jesus said, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." If you seek God, grope for Him, you will find Him in Jesus, the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Know Jesus, and you will thereby know God. You will know His mind and heart as He so expressed it in Jesus (John 3:16). This will be "excellence of knowledge" to your soul (Philippians 3:8-11).

Dive in and learn Christ! There is where you will know God!

Leftovers, 2/18/2024 By Phillip C Strong

Like most kids, I didn't really like leftovers. And God doesn't like leftovers either! Think back to His instructions to ancient Israel. Though He required only 1/10th of their blessings as sacrifices, it had to be from the best of the first fruits rather than the 'leftovers' (Mal 1:8-11). He only commanded that 1/7th of their days be dedicated to worship, spiritual reflection, and rest; but He was deadly serious about its observance (Nu 15:32-36). He always has demanded wholehearted commitment to Him (De 6:4-5; Mk 12:32-33).

Yet, apparently modern Christians haven't learned these lessons of the past! We are often prone to give Jehovah God the leftovers of our:

- 1) Time. We're so busy with work, recreation, the kids' extra-curricular activities, other family commitments, and even 'down time' that we wind up giving Him only the leftovers.
- 2) Hearts. Many of us are so emotionally committed to our lives and families that God gets only the leftovers of our hearts – though we still sing about being 'wholeheartedly' devoted to Him.
- 3) Blessings. Though the New Testament does not specify an exact percentage of financial prosperity, are we really 'sacrificing' – or are we just giving back the leftovers to Him?
- 4) Commitment. Think long, hard, and soberly about your dedication to God. Does He really come first in all aspects of your present life, or is He just getting the leftovers of your commitments?

At the core of all these areas of application is one basic problem: We aren't really willing to sacrifice ourselves – or any other part of our lives. Instead, we content ourselves with giving God the leftovers, and expect Him to be pleased with our offerings. We should know better. Biblical history teaches us better. Remember the words of David: "I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing" (2 Sa 24:24).