

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.06.01

Website: oakgrovecofc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

Sermon recordings

Scan the QR code below with your phone's cam, or visit oakgrovecofc.org/sermons.

Speaker-AM: Steve Helterbrand

Title:

Recording:

tinyurl.com/SteveUnity



Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Endure Sound Doctrine

Recording:

tinyurl.com/BradDoctrine



Make every effort to keep yourselves
united in the Spirit, binding
yourselves together with peace.

Ephesians 4:3

For the time will come
when they will not endure
sound doctrine; but after
their own lusts shall they
heap to themselves
teachers...

—2 Timothy 4:3

By Grace Alone, Through Faith Alone? 5/23/2025 By Sam Bunyard

One of the most abused passages in all the Bible: “By grace [alone] you have been saved through faith [alone], and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). Is that really what it says? Look it up and read it again! Only one verse in the Bible contains the phrase “faith alone” – and it says that salvation is NOT by “faith alone” (Jas. 2:24)! But we do not need to leave the context of Ephesians to expose the foolishness of this often-cherry-picked verse!

Ephesians 2:8-9 is true! Let us acknowledge that the gracious gift of salvation is obtained through faith! What else does this context say about this faith?

1. This faith comes after hearing the gospel. “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation...” (Eph. 1:13).
2. Reconciliation and peace come through the preached gospel. “...He might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross... and He came and preached peace...” (Eph. 2:16-17).
3. Christian inheritance, participation in the body, and application of the promise come through the gospel! “...that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ through the gospel...” (Eph. 3:6).
4. A relationship with Christ comes through faith received by the gospel. “...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...” (Eph. 3:17).

Faith is necessary to find grace. It doesn't come miraculously, but after the gospel is preached (cf. Rm. 10:17) – and there must be a response (cf. Rm. 10:16)! It's through faith in that preached gospel that salvation comes! And faith without obedience isn't really faith at all (cf. Heb. 3:18-19)!

When people make foolish claims from scripture – just read the context!

Regrets of Unfulfilled Promises, 5/27/2025 by Zeke Flores

Everyone has regrets about unfulfilled promises. I know I do. I made a promise many years ago that remains unkept to this day. It's not that I was purposely trying to deceive those to whom I made the promise. It's not that I didn't have the time or the resources to fulfill it. It just kept slipping my mind, and the more it slipped my mind, the more the years slipped by. And though I've been forgiven for not keeping the promise, it still remains in the back of my mind, and it hurts to think about it.

See, that's the thing about being human. A person may have good intentions and give assurances regarding them, but they may still never materialize. And that's the great difference between a human promise maker and the Divine Promise Keeper. God's promises do not slip His mind, nor do other things get in the way of His carrying out His promises. His fulfillment of them may not be in our preferred time frame, or even in a way we might expect, but He will keep them, for He is a God who cannot lie. And because He loves you, He wants you to keep your promises, to do what you know is right.

Remember, you'll not only be judged by your actions, but also by your inaction.

"Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).