

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.09.21

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Encouragement

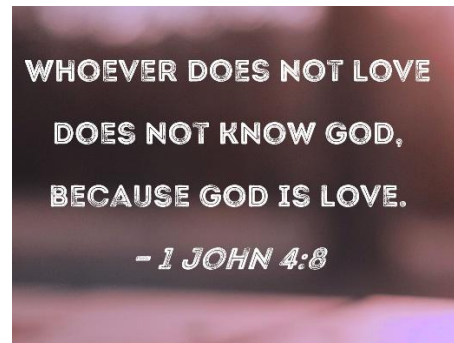
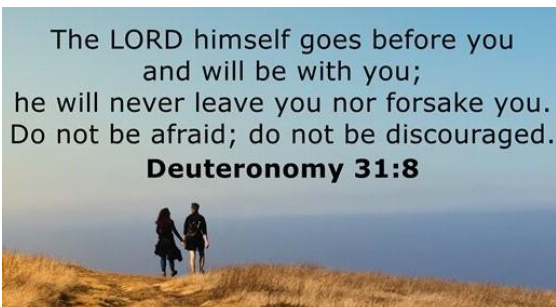
Recording:



Speaker-PM: Kraig Benney

Title: Love

Recording:



News and Prayer Requests

- Gospel Meetings:
 - Sept 21-24 Southside in Springfield with Josh Thornhill.
 - Sept 28-Oct3 St James with Marshall McDaniel.
 - Oct 2-5 Fair Grove with Sam Bunyard

Articles

Which Church? 9/20/2025 by Josh Vinyard

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of Christian denominations in the United States. All of the members of these churches claim to believe in the same God, the same Bible, and the same Christ. Maybe you are reading this and are confused about which direction to go? Which church is right?

There are some who will say that all churches are right. It simply doesn't matter which one you join. I am not exactly sure why some say this or believe this. Do they say this because they don't want to seem self-righteous, narrow-minded, or dare I say it, intolerant. Is it because if they say that their church is the only one, that implies that all of the others are wrong? Is it because they want to have "fellowship" with as many people as possible, and they don't want to draw that line in the sand?

Christ desired and prayed for unity (John 17:20-21). Paul wanted the Corinthians to speak the same thing and condemned division (1 Cor. 1:10). Paul even told these same Corinthians that he taught the same way or same thing in every church (1 Cor. 4:7). My question is this, can we use the Scriptures and a bit of thinking for ourselves and come to the conclusion that all churches are right? Let's see.

It is likely that most people are members of different churches because they believe in different and even conflicting doctrines. One church teaches a little baby is born in sin and another teaches it is not. One teaches sprinkling for baptism, and another teaches full immersion in water for the remission of sins. One teaches a centralized headquarters (and a pope) and others teach that each local church is equipped to take care of itself.

If we say that members of these different churches are Christians, saved, and are pleasing and acceptable to God, we are going to have to conclude some things. First, we would have to conclude that God is just as equally pleased if a man teaches that you are born in sin as he is with the man who says that children are not born in sin. We have to conclude that God is just as equally pleased if man teaches sprinkling for baptism as He is with the man who teaches immersion for the remission of sins. We also have to conclude that different people can believe those differing and conflicting doctrines and still be pleasing and acceptable in the sight of God.

Here is where I want to ask you to think logically for just a minute. If two different men can believe two different doctrines, can't one man believe two different doctrines and still be pleasing in the sight of God? Really? Let's go a step further.

If one man can teach you are saved by faith only and all you have to do is say a prayer in your heart in one church in town and another says, you must hear the Word, believe it, repent of your sins, confess Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized for the remission of sins in another part of town --- here me here. Can't one and the same man teach one Sunday that all you have to do is have faith and say a sinner's prayer to be saved and then the next Sunday, in the same church, teach hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, and being baptized to be saved? Well, that seems a bit hypocritical, doesn't it?

Wouldn't God be just as well-pleased with one man who teaches conflicting doctrines as He is with two men who teach conflicting doctrines? I cannot see how you can conclude that one is right, and the other is wrong?

IF it really makes no difference what we believe or what we preach, a preacher can preach one Sunday that children are born in sin, and then the next Sunday teach that they are born innocent. The preacher can teach that musical instruments should not be used in worship on one Sunday, and then on the next Sunday teach that you can use whatever instruments you want. On Sunday morning, the preacher can teach that you are predestined to either be saved or lost and you can't do anything on your own. Then on that very Sunday night, he could teach that that you have free will to hear the gospel and either believe it or not, the choice is yours.

If two different preachers can preach different things and be pleasing to God, why can't one preacher do it?

Matthew 7:28 says that when Jesus concluded his sermon, they were astonished at His doctrine. Acts 2:42, says that the church in Jerusalem continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine (which was Christ's doctrine). Notice that the doctrine of Christ is singular. Paul warns the Colossians about the commandments and doctrines of men (Col. 2:21-22). Jesus claimed that some worshipped with their mouths, but their hearts were far from him and in vain they worshipped the doctrines and commandments of men (Matt. 15:8-9). Hebrews 13:9 tells us not to be carried about with divers and strange doctrines. It is interesting that when the doctrine of Christ is referred to it is in the singular. But every time the word doctrines is in the plural form, it refers to doctrines of men, doctrines of devils, and strange doctrines.

Take some time and think about these things.