

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2026.01.04

Website: oakgrovecofc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

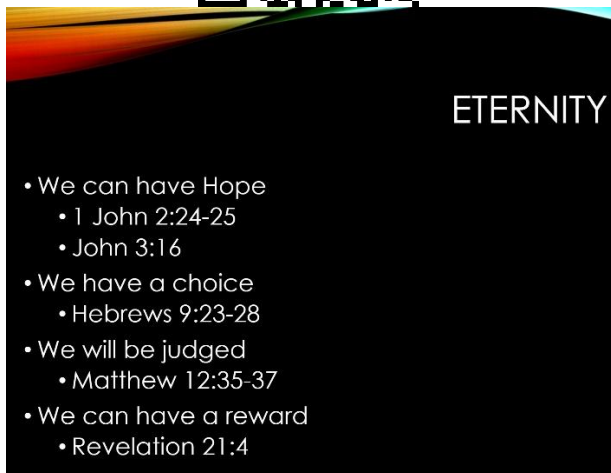
Sermon recordings

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

Speaker-AM: Robbie Moreland

Title: Life, Death, & Eternity

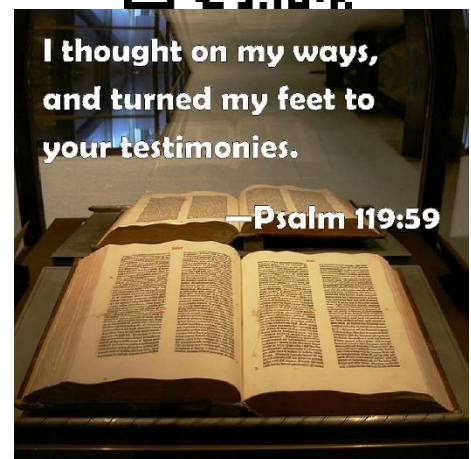
Recording:



Speaker-PM: Norman Sewell

Title: I thought, I Turned

Recording:



Article

It's a New Day 1/1/2026 by Doy Moyer

One sobering thought is that children are coming into this world now who will live to see the 22nd century, assuming the Lord does not come first. I had grandparents who were born in the 19th century, and this connects back even further. Not only does time fly, but generations span across centuries just as quickly. While the earth seems to abide, "A generation goes, and a generation comes" (Ecclesiastes 1:4). There is no stopping it.

Time and generations will march on no matter what else we think or do, so the question is, what are we doing with the time in which we live and with the generations we may touch? Will we, like David, serve the purpose of God in our own generation (Acts 13:36)? Will we be those who, like men of Issachar, understand the times in which we live (I Chronicles 12:32)? Will we seek the welfare of the place where we live (Jeremiah 29:7)?

We can fret and fuss about the current state of the world, we can re-live the evils of the past, or we can live in a glorified past of the "good old days." None of these is wise (cf. Ecclesiastes 7:10) and will not accomplish what we might wish. With all of the winds of change and the uncertainties, we can know this: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Because He is the same, because the problem of sin is the same, and because the solution to that problem is the same gospel, we can speak truth in love and point people to a living hope that will serve as a sure and steadfast anchor (Hebrews 6:13-19). God's promises will not fail; the world's promises will. Let us, then, renew our minds in Him. It's a new day.

Apostasy Can Happen Quickly 12/13/2025 by Doy Moyer

Among the many lessons we learn from studying the children of Israel is that apostasy can happen within a single generation. Proximity close to the original is no guarantee of holding to the truth. This pattern happened quickly and more than once. The first generation that came out of Egypt under Moses fell into disbelief and couldn't enter the promised land (Hebrews 3:18-19). The next generation that entered under Joshua was better, but as soon as Joshua and the elders with him were gone, they quickly fell again. The warnings were given. The exhortations were strong (Joshua 1:1-9). But it still only took less than one generation to falter. Again, proximity close to the original is not fail-proof. This is why we must continually reassess where we are and make that commitment of faithfulness to the Lord based on His revealed will. Each one within each generation bears responsibility, and the standard for behavior is the same for each. We don't measure ourselves by the next generation in close proximity to the original, but by the standard that was to shape the original itself. Even in Scripture, while the apostles lived and taught, apostasy was happening (e.g., Corinth, churches of Asia in Revelation). The appeal was to the standard given (cf. Galatians 1:6-9).

While we appreciate the writings of early Christians from the second century onward and gain important insights (I do profit from reading them), we would be foolish to think that, because they were close to the first century, they were necessarily correct in all their practices. Nor should we think today that we should judge faithfulness by what Christians were doing in the 1950s or any previous decade.

If we follow Jesus, then we need to keep this before us continually: "The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day" (John 12:48). "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11).