



## Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2026.01.11

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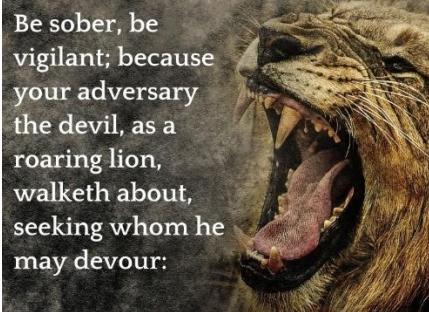
### Sermon recordings

Scan the QR code below with your phone's cam, or visit [oakgrovecofc.org/sermons](http://oakgrovecofc.org/sermons).

**Speaker-AM:** Tyler Glidden

**Title:** The Adversary

**Recording:**



**Speaker-PM:** Patrick Hite

**Title:** Doing Evangelism

**Recording:**



ONE NIGHT THE LORD  
SPOKE TO PAUL IN A VISION:  
"DO NOT BE AFRAID;  
KEEP ON SPEAKING,  
DO NOT BE SILENT."  
ACTS 18:9-10

## Articles

### Unwashed Hands 1/9/2026 by Hugh DeLong

Somewhere before the time of Jesus, some of the Jewish leaders had taken the instructions for Priests in Num. 18:8-13, where they were to ceremonially 'wash' their hands before eating 'holy' food which had been offered as a sacrifice, and applied it to 'ordinary' food and 'ordinary' people. After a short while, this understanding and application became 'the rule'. As such, it was viewed as 'sinful' not to do it. It had nothing to do with health and sanitation; it simply had become their tradition.

Many 'traditions' come about like this. One generation begins doing or believing something, and after a short while, the reason behind the action is forgotten, but the action is deemed 'necessary'. While it may not be wrong to continue such a practice, here, the practice was being 'bound'. Everybody has traditions! Yet they are not to be held as God's commandments.

Jesus calls them out on this. They neglected the commandments of God yet held on to their traditions. They set aside various commandments of God and clung to their traditions.

This simply shows that we must be careful to recognize traditions for what they are: traditions. We must also recognize the commandments of God as the commandments of God. This will require some thinking on our part, but it is necessary.

### Why Such a Divide in America? 1/7/2026 by Terry Wane Benton

There is a huge divide in our country. I look at the huge divide between the right and the left in American politics, to say nothing of the huge divide in religions that claim to believe in Jesus Christ. Why are we so deeply divided? Part of the reason is that we haven't really learned from Christ. Paul, by the Spirit, expressed this division this way:

"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:17-24 NKJV).

There will always be a deep divide between those who have "so learned Christ" and those who have not. We can help one soul at a time to learn Christ and come out of darkness, ignorance, and immorality. Spread the word! It is the only way to reduce the divide.