

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2026.03.15

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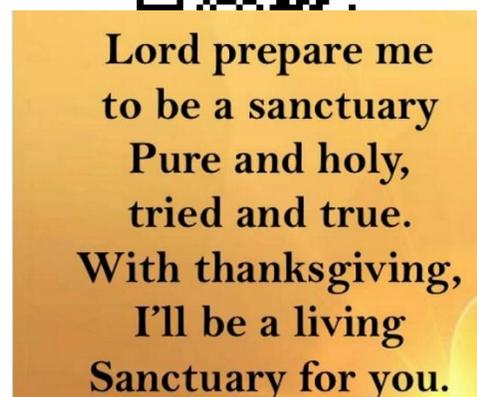
Speaker-AM: Patrick Hite
Title: Diligently Seeking God

Recording:



Speaker-PM: Kraig Benney
Title: God's Sanctuary

Recording:



Articles

Why Does New Testament Christianity Scare You So?, 12/1/1994, by Floyd Chappellear

The enemy was formidable, so a sizeable army needed to be assembled to ensure victory. Even so, how could an army of 32,000 conquer the host of Midian, Amalek, and the other eastern peoples whose number exceeded 120,000? Although one would wonder, the Lord was concerned that by a victory, the people's hearts would be stirred up to boast that they had done it of themselves, so the legions were whittled down to a few who lapped with their hands (Judges 7:1-6). Although others of Naphtali, Ephraim, Asher, and Manasseh came out to the slaughter, the initial rout was accomplished by the three hundred with the pots, the jars, the lamps, and the swords (Judges 7:22-25). A lesson should be learned from all this: God's strength does not depend on human ability. Isn't this the lesson that Paul taught us when he declared, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9)?

Let us restate that truth: God does not need human power or human accomplishment to achieve His goals!

New Testament Christianity will succeed where there is no organization beyond that of the local church. When a church, or several, sent a man out to proclaim Christ as Antioch did (Acts 13:3), the result was that the whole world had occasion to hear it (Colossians 1:23). No super organization, such as a missionary society or combination of independent churches, was necessary to accomplish this end. It succeeded because God was with the disciples and they had a mind to work the work of God.

When one church was in danger of having its candlestick removed, as was Ephesus, God felt no need to instruct Smyrna to take any action concerning the matter (see Revelation 2:1-7; 2:8-11). These were independent congregations - not tied together by any alliance or inter-congregational fellowship. They were not part of any denomination and did not behave as if they were!

Brethren fear true non-denominational Christianity because we need the comfort afforded by something larger than a local church. After all, being truly independent suggests smallness and weakness, which are intolerable. Brethren, there are two things we need to know:

With God, all things are possible, and When He is with us, nothing can truly be against us. Therefore, let us not be frightened by New Testament Christianity, but let us glory in it as we see the power of God winning souls to Christ and success surrounding us everywhere!

God Is My Shepherd, 3/12/2026 by Zeke Flores

In Genesis 48:15-16, Jacob blesses Joseph's sons and describes God as the One who has shepherded him all his life. This is the first time God is called a shepherd in Scripture. Jacob looks back and sees that God has guided, protected, and sustained him through every season.

This reveals a foundational truth about God's character. He is not distant. He is a shepherd who walks with His people, even when they wander. Jacob's life was full of twists, yet he recognized that God's care was constant.

This image of God as shepherd becomes central throughout Scripture. It shapes how we understand His leadership, His protection, and His love.

If you feel uncertain or weary, remember Jacob's testimony. God has been shepherding you even when you didn't notice. His care is steady, and His guidance is sure.