

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.02.19

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Robbie Moreland

Title: Names

Recording:

tinyurl.com/RobNames

Speaker-PM: Tyler Glidden

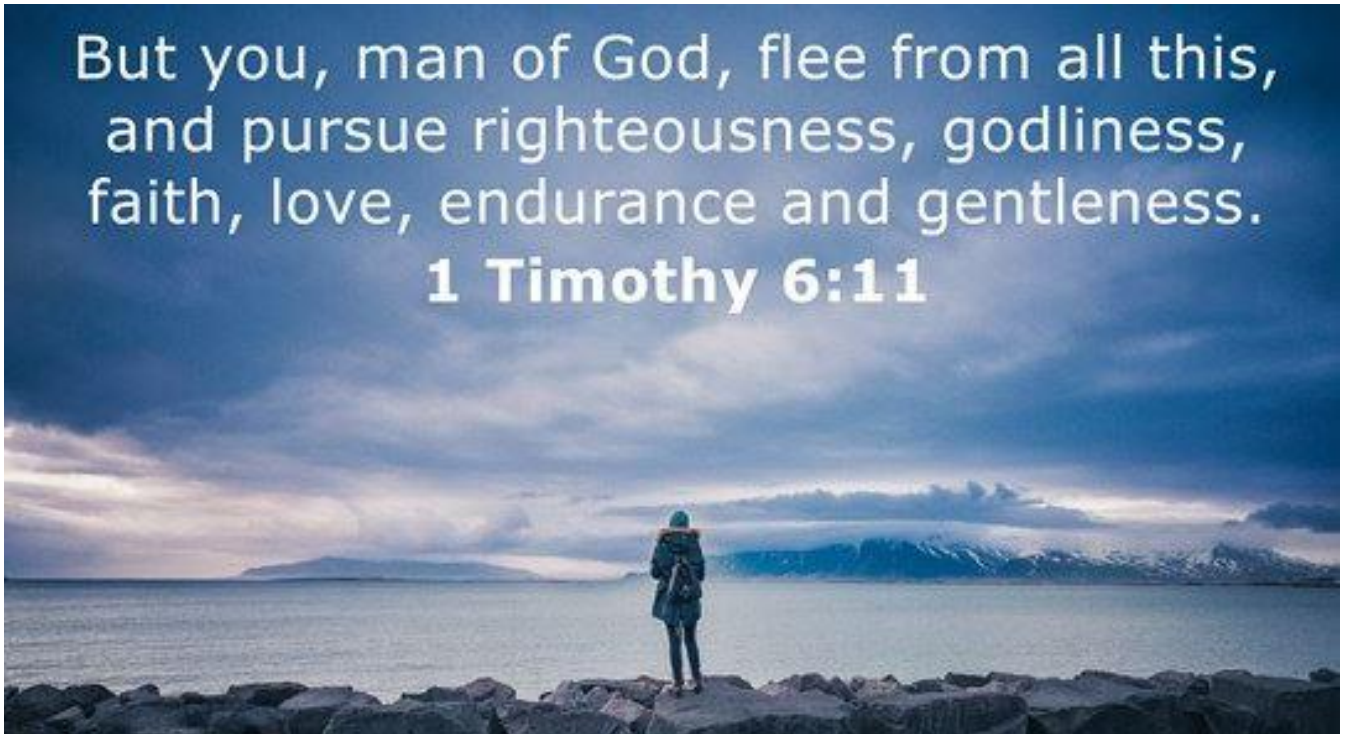
Title: Nahum

Recording:

tinyurl.com/TylerNahum

But you, man of God, flee from all this,
and pursue righteousness, godliness,
faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

1 Timothy 6:11



Articles

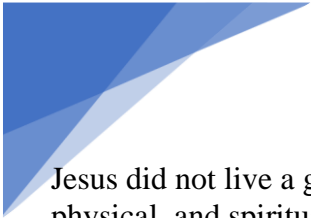
Hold Fast and Consider, 2/6/2023 By Wm. Isaac Helterbrand

Hebrews 10:23 says, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” The severity of the confession Christians all share in common is extreme. We confessed Jesus as our Lord and the Son of God. We made a commitment to make Him the king of our lives and answer to Him in all things. With the pressures we feel by society, the tiny or non-existent amount of free time we have, the craziness of getting up in the morning, getting around, and getting out the door to a church service make it easy to forget about the severity of our confession. Every now and then we should intentionally recenter our lives, our thoughts, and our plans around Jesus and other Christians. If we do not keep Jesus at the front and center, we are in danger of accidentally moving Him down our priority list until we are missing services for things we would have scoffed at when we had more zeal. The next verse, Hebrews 10:24 says, “...And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works...” That consideration of each other is shown through the same things that help us to hold fast our confession. In theory, they are simple things, but in practice they become difficult.

Holding fast our confession and considering one another to stir up love and good works looks like:

- Showing up to services early enough to greet people
- Remaining consistent in attendance and communicating through absences
- Involving ourselves in the work, more than the bare minimum
- Regularly showing hospitality
- Building genuine relationships with other Christians
- Treating worship service as the most important event of the week
- Allowing time and space on Sundays to prepare the heart and mind to worship God
- Learning to be enthusiastic about the Bible and all the information in it
- Spending time with Christians outside the worship service

This list is definitely not exhaustive and there may be some you are much better at than others. There may be some on this list you are fantastic at and others you are unable to accomplish. They are things we all must work on. They are the actions that result from holding fast our confession and considering one another. The warning we all must heed is that if we are not actively engaging in what vs 23 and 24 ask of us. We will become the “some” in vs 25 that have the manner of “forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.”



Christ's Sufferings, 2/20/2023 by Robbie Moreland

Jesus did not live a great life on this Earth. He endured way more than any of us can imagine. His emotional, physical, and spiritual life changed when He came to be our Savior. I would like us to look at some things he endured for us. He endured them for each and every person here tonight, and for each and every person in this world, living, dead, and yet to be born.

Emotional

He endured his friend's death

As we know, Jesus befriended a man named Lazarus before he dies. John 11:35 says “**Jesus Wept**”. He wept not only for His friend Lazarus' death, but probably due to the words spoken by his family as well.

They keep saying “if you would have been here, he would not have died!” This alone would have been an emotional strain. Let alone enduring his friend's death and his travel weariness. The whole time Christ knew he could raise him, but still feeling the pain of loss would have been great to Him, as it is when we lose a friend as well. He was born a human after all, and would have felt the same pains. The question for us. Do we remember our friend Jesus's death and feel the same way about Him? Do we remember Him for what he has done for us, and grieve, if even just a little for His suffering?

His friends would abandon Him

Matt 14:26-31 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ 28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 29 Peter said to him, “Even though they fall away, I will not.” 30 And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” 31 But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

Jesus's disciples were with him 24/7 for many years. Even after traveling with Christ that long, seeing the miracles he performed, knowing that this man was the Son of God, and Deity, they still didn't stay by his side at the end. We need to remember this fact and make sure that we don't do the same here and deny Christ. We have to stay strong, stand up for truth, and fight for Christ.

Spiritual

Leaving heaven + coming to this world

John 1:18 says “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him”

Christ. This was God in the flesh. He could not stand or tolerate sin, and he had to come and live in this sinful world. For 33 years or so, he lived upon this filthy place after leaving Heaven. He had to endure much more than we can imagine by just staying on Earth and not giving up. We live our entire lives here upon the Earth trying to get into Heaven, and then Christ does the opposite. He gives that up for us. He gives up being with His father, and the throne of righteousness to come to a world without it. Just imagine if you had to leave your home and travel to a foreign land for your whole life, knowing that you would live a cruel life there before being murdered. Would you want to ensure that? Luckily for us, Christ did that for us so we could live.

Taking sin upon Himself

Matt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Christ took on sin. He took on my sins, your sins, and everyone's sins that have ever or will be alive. He did this for our salvation. But, because of this, he became separated from God for a time, as God cannot associate Himself with sin. This was probably the worst suffering Christ endured. He loved God, He was sinless, and yet he took on sin and was apart from God for that. Even so, he endured that suffering for us.



Physical

Beaten + Scourged

Of course, he was beaten on numerous occasions, and scourged.

Matt 26:67-68 Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

Matt 27:26 Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Most of you might know what scourging or flogging is. If not, it was a Roman punishment in which a person was struck 40 times by a special device. The device wasn’t just a whip, but a whip with multiple strands. Each strand held metal shards designed to cut and rip. In a lot of cases, the pain and blood loss would send the victim into shock and make them pass out, or in some cases, death. But once again, Jesus endured it for us.

Crucified + Death

Crucifixion involved being nailed through His hands to two cross posts. Then, the feet were nailed through to the bottom post so he would be up off of the ground. This would help with the dying process as it would strain the body and cause the body to need more air. Usually, the person crucified would die from exhaustion trying to keep himself propped up so he could breathe. Jesus endured this for us, including his death.

Matthew 27:45-54

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). 47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” 48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” 50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. 54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Truly Christ was the Son of God, and He endured a lot of physical anguish for us.

Beaten....Scourged....Crucified And Died....For us.

Sometimes, we think we have it rough. We think we are going through great suffering. It might be emotional, physical, spiritual, or maybe all three. If we are going through anything, we can use Christ as an example for us. The man who went through more than anyone else who has ever lived. We can use His examples and triumphs to strengthen us and help us push forward. If we can endure as He did, we too can obtain resurrection and be at the throne with God, just as He is now, if we only submit to Him and obey.