

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.09.03

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: Spend Wisely

Recording:

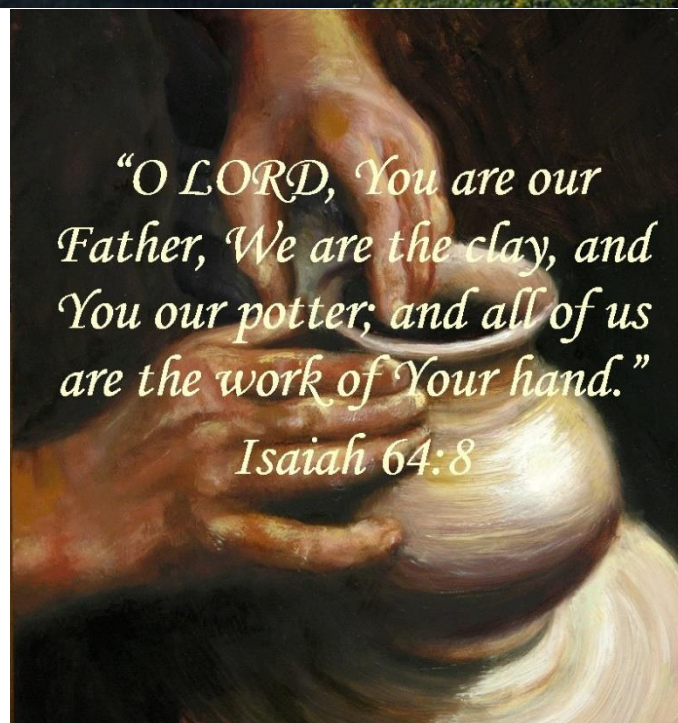
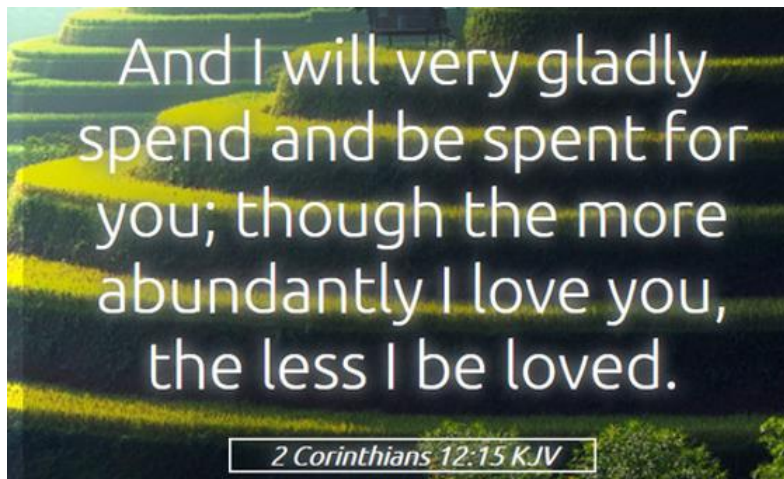
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/spend-wisely

Speaker-PM: Kraig A Benney

Title: Lumps Of Clay

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/lumps-of-clay



Articles

Divisions, Disputes, and Meddling, 9/5/2023 By Robbie Moreland

Derived from sermon on 9/22/2020 - oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/divisions

Ever argue with someone over something simple or meaningless? Did you look back on it later and cringe at yourself? If not, you probably should have! Maybe it was a traffic dispute with another vehicle and you argued over who had the right of way? Argued with someone over which sports team is better? Argued over anything that wasn't worth the time spent talking about it?

We think we HAVE to be right. Perhaps pride, self-worth, and winning come into our minds and hearts?

James 4:1-6

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Give up the useless disputes. Trade in pride for humility. Work on self-control!

Or it could be sometimes you see something that has nothing to do with you in the least, but you just can't help yourself. You get that itch and have to step in and give your two cents or help.

Proverbs 26:17

Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears.

1 Thessalonians 4:11

And to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you.

Sometimes, it is not your place to get involved. Basically, you should worry about you. Don't get involved in matters that do not affect you or the souls of others. Focus on the spiritual issues, not the worldly ones.

In summary, build up the brethren, don't create arguments, and don't tear others down or meddle! Be busy in the work of the Lord, and not in the works of the world and cares of this life.



Rash Words, 8/17/2023 by Doy Moyer

“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing” (Proverbs 12:18).

Here’s one thought about our need to be careful with our words. What we say publicly reflects upon our spouses and loved ones. If we are constantly complaining about how bad things are, for example, how might this make spouses feel, even if our intention is not to cast shadows on them? In our desire to be authentic and speak our minds, we need to remember that other people who care about us and love us feel the sting of what we say. If we are indicating that we are unhappy or that we feel unloved and unappreciated, for example, how will this impact the ones who love us the most and are trying to give us a sense of peace and safety? Will our words cause them to think they are failing?

Words are powerful. They encourage and lift up, and they can cut down and dishearten. “But that’s not how I meant it.” Perhaps not. I hope not. But speaking out without stopping to consider carefully the impact of discouraging words is not healthy. If we aren’t sure about how our words may come across, then perhaps we shouldn’t say it. If we need to vent, there are options that might spare the hurt we can cause. But love requires us to think first of others, and there may be no more significant place to start than with those who are closest to us.