

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.10.08

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Jamie Rinehart

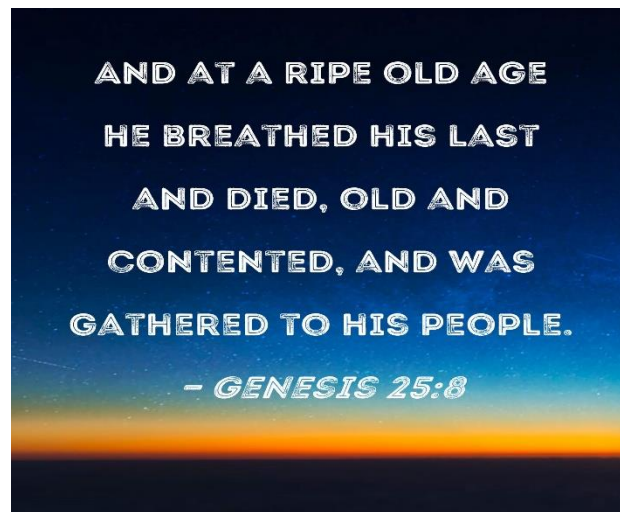
Title: Ripe Old Age

Recording:
Not Available

Speaker-PM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: Being A Neighbor

Recording:



You Are The People, 10/5/2023 By Sam Bunyard

As Job endured the testing of his faith, his friends came to mourn with him and to comfort him (Job 2:11). Initially his friends “sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great” (Job 2:13). Sitting there in silence was the most helpful thing they did! But eventually they became accusatory. Surely Job must have done something to deserve the horrible situation he was in! They began to give Job some unsolicited advice. It was not productive.

The attitude behind his friends’ advice spurred Job’s sarcastic response, “No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you!” (Job 12:2). Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar looked down at Job from their ‘high horses’ thinking they knew what was best for him. In reality, they were not as well informed as Job himself! Job reminded them, “I have a heart as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Indeed, who does not know such things as these” (Job 12:3)?

Of course, some of the sentiments behind the friends’ thinking were based in reality – sin has physical consequences and messes up people’s lives. This just didn’t apply to Job’s situation as they had assumed. The friends had just enough understanding of the truth to be harmful and didn’t seem interested in learning any further.

Later Paul would write “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know” (I Cor 8:1-2). A little knowledge can give us a big head – or it can give us a big heart. Solomon demonstrated that increased knowledge can lead to humility rather than pride – with the proper mindset (Eccl. 1:18).

We must keep love and humility behind our knowledge, lest we become like the friends of Job.

And So All Israel Will Be Saved, 10/02/2023 by Terry Wane Benton

Romans 11:26 is typically misunderstood and misapplied.

The church is the true Israel that will be saved. The gospel is the power to save (Romans 1:16). Being a mere Jew in the flesh does not save. There must be the circumcision in heart to make a true Jew (Romans 2:28-29). So, all true Jews will be saved.

But, true Jews believe the truth God revealed to them about the Messiah, and true Jews are not hardened against Jesus Christ being the Messiah, Immanuel, God manifest in the flesh. 3,000 Jews in the flesh became circumcised in the heart on Pentecost by listening to the evidence of Jesus. And so (in this manner) all Israel (true Israelites in heart) will be saved.

The physical nation of Israel is not true Israel. "Because of unbelief they were broken off" (Romans 11:20). "If they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted back in again" (Romans 11:23). They can be blessed if they are not too hardened in heart to hear God's gospel evidence of salvation in Christ Jesus. If hardness is only in part, then that Jew can and will open his heart to the truth of Jesus and be saved. But, that is the way all of true Israel becomes the true Israel of God. So, there is no big plan to save the physical nation of Israel today.

The plan is for any person, Jew or Gentile, to come out from under condemnation by the convicting power of the gospel, and in this manner, all true Israelites (those who are converted by the gospel) will be saved. There is no other plan for saving unbelieving national Israel. They are outside God's blessings because of unbelief. They can come back in the same way the 3,000 Jews did on Pentecost (Acts 2:36-41). The church of Christ that began on Pentecost was the true Israel of God. Gentiles came into that same vine of blessing. Jews who are not too hardened in heart can be grafted in again. But, all who reject Jesus are not part of the Israel that will be saved. God's blessings are on the spiritual Israel, Jesus' church, not on the old national Israel.