



Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.10.20

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Sermon recordings

Click or type the short URL, or visit oakgrovecofc.org/Sermons.

Speaker-AM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Seed Of Salvation

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/seed-of-salvation

Speaker-PM: Patrick Hite

Title: Examining Yourself

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/examining-yourself

Trusting Our Father's Love, 4/5/2018 By Grady Huggins


“Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” (Matt 7:9-11).

How much confidence do you have in God's love for you? Do you believe Him when He says He will never leave you nor forsake you? (Heb 13:5-6) Do you really believe that. He causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him? (Rom 8:28) Do you trust Him enough to lay down all your anxieties and fears at His feet? (1 Pet 5:6-7) Do you find the comfort He has promised you in prayer? (Php 4:6-7)

Many times we know intellectually that we are children of God and that He is a perfectly loving and compassionate Father, but this information gets lost somewhere between our head and our heart. We fear that despite our fervent petitions God will see fit to give us a stone or snake. Knowing that God is not a vending machine to indulge our every whim, we go to the other extreme of seeing Him as an aloof emperor who pushes forward His personal agenda without any consideration for our cares and concerns.

If we properly view the Lord as a tenderhearted and sympathetic Father, we can submit to His will with full confidence that whatever He decides will ultimately be in our best interest. As His children, He will not allow us to face any hardship without good reason. He will only say “no” to the trusting, fervent prayers of His children if some higher purpose demands it. If we think we have received a stone or a serpent in response to our prayers, we need to renew our trust in His love and pray that He might open our eyes to the greater good in our situation.

God's providence is many times far beyond our comprehension. There may be times that we feel like Job, endlessly frustrated and disappointed by God without reason. But God wants us to learn to trust in Him at times without answer or explanation. He wants us to develop a genuine confidence in His love and sovereignty. Even at the darkest times, God wants us to remember that He is a compassionate Father, and we can cast all our cares on Him.



Study, Do, Teach, 10/19/23 by Sam Bunyard

"The good hand of Ezra's God was upon him" because he had "prepared his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:9-10). Study. Do. Teach.

If we want God to be with us as He was with Ezra, we have a powerful example to follow! If we are to be effective in deepening our relationship with God and serving Him, we must prepare our heart for these things.

The importance of study is generally understood by devoted Christians. For those who have "tasted that the Lord is gracious", it is natural to "desire the pure milk of the word" (1 Peter 2:2-3). However, if we do not prepare our hearts to do and teach, what purpose does our study serve?

We must ensure that our study is never a mere intellectual pursuit. This is not a college class we are cramming for! Bible study is not about having all the 'right answers' in a trivia game – it's about living righteously before God! If we prepare to study, but not to do, then we are not "doers of the word but hearers only" and we have deceived ourselves (James 1:21-27).

It seems to be easier for most Christians to prepare their hearts to study and do than to teach. But if we aren't willing to teach the lost what we have come to know about God, can we truthfully say that we are fully making application of the word? After all, evangelism is the duty of every Christian! We may be diligent in our personal studies and be careful to 'be good' regarding personal struggles; but at the end of the day the lost are still lost. And we have 'buried our talent' and become unprofitable servants (Mt. 25:30).

Christians, prepare your hearts! Let it become a personal mantra: Study. Do. Teach.