

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.08.04

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Jamie Rinehart

Title: Debt We Can't Repay

Recording:

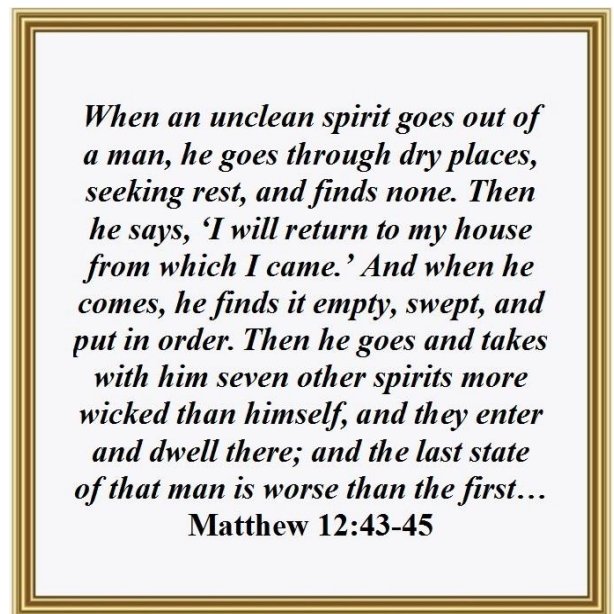
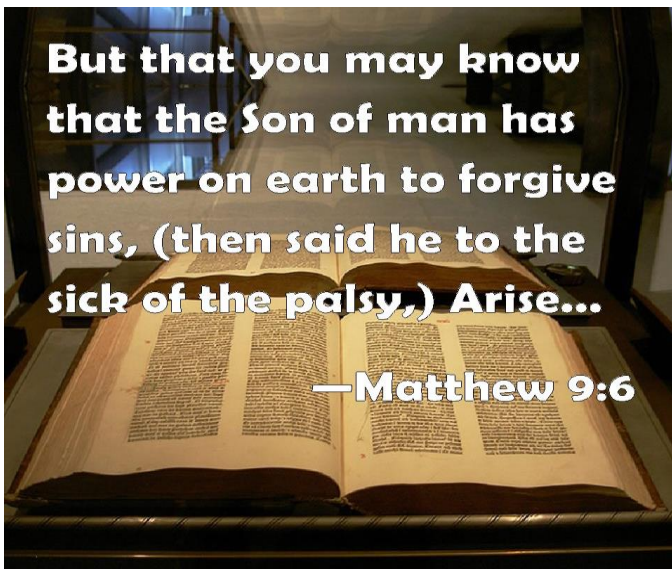
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/debt-we-cant-repay

Speaker-PM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: How to Fail

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/how-to-fail/



Articles

Jesus Believe in Inspiration, 7/27/24 by Perry Hall

"Inspiration," how it happens, what it means, and why it is important are all questions, some of which have more straightforward answers than others. As far as *how* it happens, I don't have all the answers other than the personality of each writer is apparently intact, which I do not find incompatible with "The Dictation Theory" since God's omnipotence is involved. Saying that is how I understand it happens doesn't mean I can explain it other than what I often say, "If you can believe the first four words of the Bible, then you can believe all the words that follow."

What *inspiration* (better understood as "breathed out by God" - [II Timothy 3:16 ESV](#)) means is that the prophets and writers didn't necessarily understand what they wrote ([I Peter 1:10-12](#); [II Peter 1:19-21](#)). Therefore, while the Bible is *written* by men, the Bible is not *authored* by men about God, but rather *authored* by God about men and God as self-revealed.


The commands to love one another and God are the most important. But among the other teachings that are not commands, I consider inspiration the most important. To borrow a visual image from Jesus, "all doctrines hang on this one doctrine." One reason I believe in Jesus's resurrection is that I believe in the apostles' inspiration.

Jesus Himself believed in and taught inspiration. In Matthew 22, when discussing whose son the Messiah is, the Pharisees answer with, "David's;" Jesus follows with, "*How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'*" ([Matthew 22:43](#))? I am not sure David understood (see above), and "*No one was able to answer him at all*" ([Matthew 22:46](#)), meaning the Pharisees couldn't explain it either.

What do we learn from this simple exchange:

1. Scripture is inspired. Jesus believed this, and so should we.
2. Writers didn't always understand what they were writing, which means the ideas didn't derive from their thoughts. Did David originate the idea of a human son of himself while being the divine son of God?
3. Truth is not truth because we understand or approve of it. Our responsibility is to believe it.

When you read the words in the Bible, you are reading the words of the Spirit.



Piety of Pagans, 8/1/24 By Sam Bunyard

Piety is a concept that has largely been forgotten in our culture. It is closely tied to a sense of duty. It is not merely transactional – “I will do for you because you have done for me” – but is often based on relationships.

This is a concept that the pagan world traditionally understood and that Israel continued to practice in their physical relationships – even when they forgot God. When the priesthood began offering defiled sacrifices to God, they still understood their duty towards their governor (Mal. 1:8)! Paul observed the pagan objects of piety (translated ‘worship’) towards the pagan gods of Athens (Ac. 17:23)! He later instructed Timothy, “If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (I Ti. 5:8)! Why is he worse than an unbeliever? Because even the pagans understood their duty to family!

The ancient pagans understood that they owed something to their rulers, to their deities (false though they were), and to their ancestors. Our culture’s rebelliousness and dependence on social institutions has sadly deprived many from that same sense of duty. And if we forget to show piety in our earthly relationships, how do we expect to show piety towards God?

The people of God would do well to restore a sense of piety to our relationships. That begins in the home. “If any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God” (I Ti. 5:4). Piety is when we “render to all their due” and “submit to the governing authorities” appointed by God (Rom. 13:1-7). Ultimately, true piety is fulfilled when we become a “living sacrifice” to God – our “reasonable service” (Rm. 12:1).

Piety – even the pagans get it! Christian, fulfill your duty!