

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.01.14

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Patrick Hite

Title: A More Convenient Time

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/a-more-convenient-time

Speaker-PM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Armor Of God

Recording:

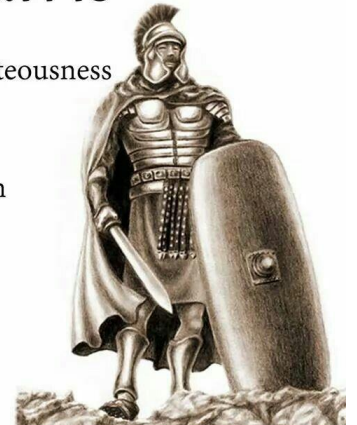
oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/armor-of-god

**AND AS HE REASONED OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS, TEMPERANCE, AND
JUDGMENT TO COME, FELIX TREMBLED,
AND ANSWERED, GO THY WAY FOR THIS
TIME; WHEN I HAVE A CONVENIENT
SEASON, I WILL CALL FOR THEE.
ACTS 24:25 KJV**

Take Up The Whole Armor Of God

**The Followings are the Armor of God
Eph 6:14-18**

- 1- The Belt of Truth
- 2- The Breastplate of Righteousness
- 3- The Sandals of Peace
- 4- The Shield of Faith
- 5- The Helmet of Salvation
- 6- The sword of the Spirit
- 7- Prayer and Fasting



Politics As Usual, 1/6/24 By Doy Moyer

Here we are, again, in a political season, gearing up for another presidential election. Once again, we hear the political talk, the division and the mud-slinging that seems to go hand in hand with politics. As in all matters, Christians cannot afford to set aside their worldview when it comes to how we view politics and government. The Scriptures give us the principles we need to be able to think and act properly. Here are a few of those principles:

- 1) Submit. We are to be subject to laws (Ro 13) if those laws do not call upon us to disobey God. Even if we disagree, we still must submit to the laws and pay the taxes.
- 2) Honor. “Honor the king,” wrote Peter (1 Pe 2:17). This does not mean that we must agree with them. It does mean that we show respect.
- 3) Pray. We are to pray for those in power, whether we agree with their politics or not (1 Ti 2:1-2), “so we may lead a tranquil and quiet life.”
- 4) Never speak evil. We are not to speak evil of anyone, including those in positions of power (Ti 3:1-2).
- 5) Work for Unity. We should be more concerned about the doctrine of Christ than with a party’s political platform. If a platform agrees with Scripture, fine, but our faith is not built around a party.
- 6) Be Salt and Light. Jesus taught His disciples to be salt and light (Mt 5:13-16). We should not do anything that will diminish the influence we can have in this world. 7) Work toward the saving of souls. Governments will rise and fall, but through it all, God's kingdom will prevail (Da 2:44-45). Should our concern for an earthly kingdom be greater than for God's kingdom?

While the world witnesses politics as usual, Christians are called to the higher purpose of living for the Lord’s kingdom. “Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself” (Ph 3:20-21).

Jesus, the Amen and the Beginning, 1/10/24 by Terry Wane Benton

"These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God" (Revelation 3:14).

The Amen

Jesus is the Amen, the One who validates us. When we say "amen" at the end of a prayer, we are validating our support for that prayer. Jesus validates us. He is our amen when the world will affirm how wrong they think we are. Jesus is the only amen we need. Jesus also validates our prayers. We can pray in His name, and the prayer now has validation in His name. Jesus does not validate the unbelieving until they repent and believe obediently in Him. The Jews who denied Jesus were adversaries, enemies, and persecutors of the early disciples of Jesus, but Jesus' miracles, teaching, and resurrection proved them wrong and gave amen to the side of the disciples. The Romans were often involved in appeasing the Jews (Acts 12:1-3) and attacking, killing, and harassing the Christians. The government might not validate, honor, and protect the Christians, but Jesus is the Highest validation we can have. He is the amen that trumps all our opponents. We don't need any higher validation than Him.

The Faithful and True Witness

He is also the "Faithful and True Witness". He is God and has seen God the Father in all his reality and glory. So, His testimony is true, and cannot be trumped by any unbeliever's efforts to cast doubt in His reality. How can a non-witness trump a witness? Jesus was there, and they were not. He also is a true witness of the reality of resurrection and the reality of heaven. He was "demonstrated" to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection (Romans 1:4), and of course, He came from heaven and was seen ascending back to heaven. So, heaven is real! Who has greater testimony about such realities than Jesus? His testimony as a true and faithful witness trumps all words of doubt and unbelief.

The Beginning of the Creation of God

Jesus is also "the beginning of the creation of God" which means He was the One who began the physical creation (Genesis 1:1ff; John 1:1-4). Nothing was made without Him. But Jesus is also the author of the greater creation, the antitype of the physical creation, the spiritual creation, the church (II Corinthians 5:15; Ephesians 2:10; 4:24). To "begin" a creation means that He has a plan that will carry it to its intended climactic purpose. He did not abandon His creation and will not abandon His spiritual creation.

The Beginning and the Amen

He is the "author" and "finisher" of our faith, which means He is with us to help us finish our mission (Hebrews 12:2). Thus, He is the "beginning" and "the Amen." The implication is that creations that are important enough to "begin" are important enough to sustain and see to the objective end. This is very satisfying to know that this is the One that is for us, so "who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). Who are such enemies in comparison?