

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.10.20

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Robbie Moreland

Title: Questions Jesus Asked:
Are You Sleeping?

Recording:



Are You Asleep?

Ephesians 5:8-14

8 For you were once **darkness**, but now you are **light** in the Lord. Walk as children of **light** 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of **darkness**, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the **light**, for whatever makes manifest is **light**. 14 Therefore He says:

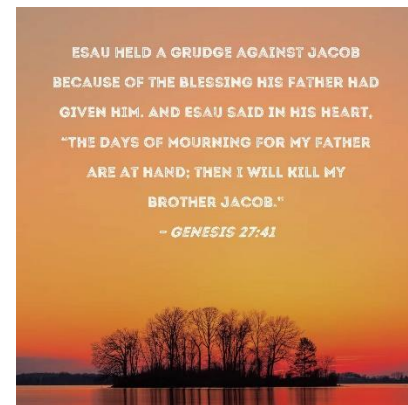
"Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you **light**."



Speaker-PM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Jacob and Esau

Recording:



The Weight of the Ark, 10/20/24 By Sam Bunyard

After the Battle of Ai, the Israelites gathered around the altar that Joshua had made, watched him record a copy of the law of Moses, and listened to him read it aloud. Not long before, they had witnessed the splitting of the Jordan River to allow them to cross into Canaan on dry ground (Jos. 3-4). They had marched with the ark around the walls of Jericho according to God's commands and had seen the walls fall down flat (Jos. 6). They had suffered the consequences of not obeying God at the First Battle of Ai (Jos. 7), and had seen that repentance leads to victory in the second (Jos. 8).

In all their experiences in the conquest of Canaan, Israel saw that victory came when they followed God's word and when they were led by His presence (represented by the Ark of the Covenant). Now, after having experienced both victory and defeat, perhaps this lesson had never been clearer to them.

So, in reverence and awe they watched Joshua write a copy of the law of Moses on the altar he had made. "Then all of Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the Ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, the stranger as well as he who was born among them... and he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them" (Jos. 8:33-35).

Joshua read the first five books of the Bible all the way through! While he did, ALL of Israel listened – even down to the little children – and the Levites bore the weight of the ark! How important is reading God's word to you?

On a Christian's Name 10/21/2024 By Robbie Moreland

Martin Luther once said this about those who were trying to use his name to denote a denomination of "Lutherans"

"In the first place, I ask that men make no reference to my name; let them call themselves Christians, not Lutherans. What is Luther? After all, the teaching is not mine (John 7:16). Neither was I crucified for anyone (1 Cor. 1:13). St. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 3, would not allow the Christians to call themselves Pauline or Petrine, but Christians. How then should I – poor stinking maggot-fodder that I am – come to have men call the children of Christ by my wretched name? Not so my dear friends; let us abolish all party names and call ourselves Christians, after him whose teaching we hold." [Martin Luther, "A Sincere Admonition by Martin Luther to all Christians to Guard Against Insurrection and Rebellion," in Luther's Works: The Christian in Society II (Vol. 45; Fortress Press, 1962), p. 70]

Sadly, this did not hold and they did not stick to the name of Christ. Neither have myriads of groups today. We should stick to what scripture says to call us.

and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers of people; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. (Acts 11:26)