

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.03.02

Website: oakgrovecofc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

Sermon recordings

Scan the QR code below with your phone's cam, or visit oakgrovecofc.org/sermons.

Speaker-AM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: All About Self

Recording:



Speaker-PM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: Bible Illiteracy

Recording:



EACH OF YOU SHOULD
LOOK NOT ONLY TO YOUR
OWN INTERESTS, BUT
ALSO TO THE INTERESTS
OF OTHERS.

- PHILIPPIANS 2:4



Hebrews 5:12-6:1 (NKJV)

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of unrighteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age,

Articles

Excellence Of speech, 2/27/2025 By Sam Bunyard

Paul wrote, “I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God” (I Cor. 2:1). He was not just being modest in his estimation of his own public speaking ability.

Others also testified, “His letters are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible” (II Cor. 10:10). How interesting that the apostle most responsible for the spread of the gospel throughout the civilized world was not known for his eloquence!

Even Moses, who served as God’s spokesman, struggled with his speaking ability! He told God at the burning bush, “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and dull of tongue” (Ex. 4:10).

Peter and John were not recognized for their speaking ability when they gave their defense to the Sanhedrin. Rather, from their speech it was easy to perceive that they were “uneducated and untrained men” (Ac. 4:13).

Polished speaking ability can certainly be a good tool in persuading people of the truth, but it is far from necessary. On the other hand, these tools can also be used as weapons of unrighteousness! We are told that there will be false teachers who use flattering and deceptive words to draw people away from the truth (II Pe. 2:1-3; Rom. 16:17-18). Therefore, we must be careful to think beyond the clever turn-of-phrase and see the actual content of the message preached. Good preaching need not be entertaining – it simply must be true!

I am not just addressing what happens in the pulpit. This idea should be empowering to every Christian regarding evangelism! You don’t need to be educated or trained.

Golden Calf Moments, 2/27/2025 By Russ Bowman

Like many of the elements of the tabernacle, the garments of the high priest were intended to make a visual impact, from the color of the robe to the design of the ephod with its breastplate, to the sash and the turban with its crown (Le 8:6-9). Moses publicly consecrated Aaron to his role as high priest and adorned him in these garments in the sight of all the people. Thus arrayed, Aaron must have cut quite an impressive figure. Here is the one man who can go into the throne room of God and offer sacrifice for the people – and his clothing marked him out as unique to such a role.

Yet Aaron, only a few months previous, was the one who commanded Israel to give him golden jewelry from which he made the idolatrous golden calf (Ex.32:22-24). We don’t know exactly why Aaron conformed to the faithless demands of the people on that occasion, but he did. And because of such, it’s difficult for me to think of him as worthy of the high priesthood. Yet, here he stands, bedecked in the glory of that role.

Aaron isn’t the only man in the Bible who made bad judgments yet was used by God in some significant way. Noah. Abraham. Jacob. Moses. David. Hezekiah. Elijah. Peter. Paul. All these, and others, had their golden calf moments. Yet God used them and adorned them to the work He wanted them to do. He did not hold their failures against them.

So, with us. We know how unfitting it is for us to wear the garments of the King. But our failures do not disqualify us from God’s use. He uses the unworthy to show the world His glory, His grace, His mercy, His love, His character. We are His priests (Re 1:6), and it is ours to proclaim His praises. We may never look at ourselves without remembering our golden calf. But God fits us with robes of beauty, seeing what we can be – not what we were.