

**Oak Grove  
Church of Christ**

(502) 749-9209

**Sunday**

Bible Class: 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

**Evangelist:** Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available  
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ  
9203 Thixton Lane  
Louisville, KY 40291



**OAK GROVE  
ENCOURAGER**

**"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24**

*JANUARY 1, 2006*

**Perception is Reality?**

Have you ever heard someone say "perception is reality?" Usually what they mean is that however a person perceives a person, object or situation to be that **MUST** be the truth. Please read the poem to follow and think about the idea of "perception is reality" and ask yourself is this rationale always true.

**The blind men and the elephant**

*It was six men of Indostan  
To learning much inclined,  
Who went to see the Elephant  
(Though all of them were blind),*

*That each by observation  
Might satisfy his mind.*

*The First approached the Elephant,  
And happening to fall  
Against his broad and sturdy side,  
At once began to bawl:  
"God bless me! but the Elephant  
Is very like a wall!"*

*The Second, feeling of the tusk,  
Cried, "Ho! what have we here  
So very round and smooth and sharp?  
To me 'tis mighty clear  
This wonder of an Elephant  
Is very like a spear!"*

*The Third approached the animal,  
And happening to take  
The squirming trunk within his hands,  
Thus boldly up and spake:  
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant  
Is very like a snake!"*

*The Fourth reached out an eager hand,  
And felt about the knee.  
"What most this wondrous beast is like  
Is mighty plain," quoth he;  
"Tis clear enough the Elephant  
Is very like a tree!"*

*The Fifth, who chanced to touch the  
ear,  
Said:"E'en the blindest man*

*Can tell what this resembles  
most;  
Deny the fact who can  
This marvel of an Elephant  
Is very like a fan!"*

*The Sixth no sooner had begun  
About the beast to grope,  
Than, seizing on the swinging tail  
That fell within his scope,  
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant  
Is very like a rope!"*

*And so these men of Indostan  
Disputed loud and long,  
Each in his own opinion  
Exceeding stiff and strong,  
Though each was partly in the  
right,  
And all were in the wrong!*

*Moral:  
So oft in theologic wars,  
The disputants, I ween,  
Rail on in utter ignorance  
Of what each other mean,  
And prate about an Elephant  
Not one of them has seen!*

Each man in the above poem believed his perception of the elephant was truly what the beast must be like. But a truer picture could have been attained by the

compiling of information from all sources. We must be willing to possess a humble heart and look into all the facts in regards to everything, especially spiritual matters because the stakes are too high.

We must keep in mind that often times circumstances or events we observe are merely a representation of something better to come.

*Col. 2:16-17 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.*

To the Old Testament Jews the outward physical statutes of the law were merely preparing them for the reality of the Christ (*Gal 3:24*). The law of Moses is liken to the shadow that is cast by the true thing. The shadow is real but it doesn't provide the clear picture of the item casting it.

All people, but assuredly Christians should "think no evil" (*1 Cor. 13:5*) in the initial stage of contemplating a situation or another person's character while merely "seeing" one feature of the elephant. Most importantly, we need to assemble all the information the Bible has to offer in regards to any religious matter.

- Bruce J. Dehut

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## TO CHEW ON

### Sentence Sermons

- To realize the worth of the anchor we need to feel the storm.
- If you don't climb the mountain, you can't see the view.
- It is easy to sit up and take notice. What is difficult is to get up and take action.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- In the presence of trouble, some people grow wings; others buy crutches.
- Worry is like a rocking chair; no matter how much you rock, you get nowhere.
- Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.

## Know the Genuine Well

After a particular department store had taken in several counterfeit bills, law officials asked the manager if he and his clerks would go to Washington for a two week study on counterfeit. After the manager and clerks had gone to Washington and taken the course and returned home, they were asked by their friends, "How much counterfeit did they show you?" They answered, "None. The entire course consisted of a detailed study of the real money." They added, "Our teachers worked on the principle that we could easily spot counterfeit if we knew the genuine well." Today, there is a host of different churches teaching conflicting and contradictory doctrines. To find the truth amidst this maze of confusion, one must know the genuine well. With a thorough knowledge of the New Testament, one can easily identify the Lord's church. Without it, invariably he will accept a counterfeit.

- Unknown

## THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

### Sunday Morning Sevice

Announcements: Arvil Young

Song Leader: Brian Shepherd

Opening Prayer: Jim Phelps

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner  
Larry Runner  
Randall Alford  
Robert Hood

Scripture Reading: Randall Hood

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Closing Prayer: Mark Smith

### Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: Arvil Young

Song Leader: Brian Shepherd

Opening Prayer: Jr. Stout

Song Service tonight

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner

Closing Prayer: Jim Covington