

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 29, 2006

What's It Worth?

Claire's yells could be heard a country mile. You would have thought that some horrific event was occurring to invoke such desperate pleas. Now it wasn't like Claire to make such a ruckus because normally she was an easy going, almost shy little girl of six. But this morning was different, something had violated her world and she was in need of help.

We sprang to our feet and raced instinctively toward the sound of her cries. We found her behind the shed, a blubbing mess of tears shouting "I'll do anything." As we surveyed the situation it didn't take long to uncover the reason for her howling. A few yards away, over by the tree stump stood her ten year old brother Brent with a hatchet held high over his head ready to strike the fatal blow at any moment. His left hand pinned the motionless blond haired blue eyed figure to the stump and he was threatening

untold bodily harm and dementedly inquiring from his sister, **“what's it worth.”**

Now this is not like one of those slasher movies, and even though Brent definitely needed some serious discipline applied to the seat of learning he would never dream of hurting his sister. The figure that was in jeopardy was Claire's cute little doll, Susie. He had snatched it out of his sister's arms and endangered its limbs because he knew this was her most precious possession and he wanted something in return for her safe keeping.

What's precious to you?

All of us have certain things we hold in high esteem; maybe we have antiques on display, or a vintage car we only take out from under the cover on sunny days. I'm sure we all would mention the value of our health and the love we have for family members. These things are important and we should treasure the family relationships we have and be a good steward over our belongings but when push comes to shove what are they really worth?

Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Sometimes the tough choices need to be made, even in regards to associations with our own relatives because Jesus said to put Him first, period.

The bottom line is this, we should be ready to offer up our own physical lives for others (1 John 3:16) but when it comes to our spiritual existence you shouldn't budge one iota.

Matthew 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

- Bruce J. Dehut

THE SUN RISE

by Jeremy Dehut

On the first day of creation God spoke light into existence and separated it from darkness, and proceeded to name the light Day and darkness Night. On the fourth day God fashioned the lights in the sky, the sun, moon and stars. Ever since then we have been blessed with the daily consistency of the rising and setting of heavenly lights, from which we are blessed with light and warmth (*Gen. 1:3-5, 14-19*).

It is such a refreshing thing in the chilly predawn hours to experience the beginning of a new day as the sun crests the horizon, warming the morning air and melting away the dew. Everything appears fresh and new, vibrant and alive! The morning sun can be inspirational to those who experience it.

LIGHT IN THE PSALMS

The writers of the Psalms certainly found inspiration in light! Considering the following verses:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid” (Ps. 27:1)?

“For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light” (Ps. 36:9).

“For you have delivered my soul from

death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life” (Ps. 56:13).

Not only did the Psalmists find inspiration in light, but the prophets were inspired by God’s spirit to use the imagery of the sunrise to predict the most significant event of human history!

THE SUNRISE

In Isaiah’s well-known prophecy predicting the birth of Jesus, he said,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, and them has light shined” (Is. 9:2).

Later in the book of Isaiah this is recorded,

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings o the brightness of your rising...Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you...The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory” (Is. 60:1-3, 5, 19).

Isaiah says we are people who “walk in

darkness,” and “dwell in a land of deep darkness” (see also *Eph. 5:8; Col. 1:13; 1 Jn. 2:9*). While in darkness, nothing happens but stumbling, groping and searching for the light. For those of us in this land of darkness, Isaiah promised God’s coming as the sunrise, providing all the light we need.

ZECHARIAH’S PROPHECY

As soon as Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, confirmed what John’s name should be, God returned to him the ability to speak (*Lk. 1:63-64*). The first words out of his mouth are words of praise toward God. After these initial words of blessing, Zechariah is filled with the Spirit, and pronounces the final prophecy of the Old Covenant as well as the first of the New. Towards the end of this prophetic hymn of thanks, Zechariah explains why John was commissioned by God to prepare the ways of the Most High.

“Because the tender mercy of our God, the sunrise from on high has broken upon us” (Lk. 1:78).

Christ’s impending birth, life and victory over death are seen as a majestic sunrise, dawning in a dark and desolate wilderness where we sit imprisoned by the black chains of our own sin. Because of Him there is a new day! Because of Him there is victory! Because of Him there is hope!

And God Said No

*I asked God to take away my pride,
And God said, "No."
He said it was not for Him to take away.
But for me to give up.*

*I asked God to make my handicapped child whole,
And God said, "No."
He said her spirit is whole,
Her body is only temporary.*

*I asked God to grant me patience,
And God said, "No."
He said that patience is a result of tribulation,
It isn't granted, it's earned.*

*I asked God to give me happiness,
And God said, "No."
He said He gives blessings.
Happiness is up to me.*

*I asked God to spare me pain,
And God said, "No."
He said, "Suffering draws you apart from
the worldly cares and brings you closer to Me."*

*I asked God to make my spirit grow,
And God said, "No."
He said I must grow on my own,
but He will prune me to make me fruitful.*

*I asked God to help me love others,
as much as He loves me,
And God said,
"Ah, finally, you have the idea."*

- Anonymous

THE LORD’S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Sevice

Announcements: **Brian Shepherd**

Song Leader: **J.O. Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Brandon Yates**

Lord’s Table: **Larry Runner
Jim Phelps
Randall Alford
Mark Sharp**

Scripture Reading: **Steve Smith**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Arvil Young**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Brian Shepherd**

Song Leader: **J.O. Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Jim Covington**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord’s Table: **Larry Runner**

Closing Prayer: **Jr. Stout**