

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

DECEMBER 25, 2005

BUTTERFLY

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be

able to support the body, which would contract in time.

Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If God allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us.

- Author unknown

The preceding story exemplifies the great effort that it takes to transform our lives into the likeness of our Lord and Savior.

Jesus did not arrive on the scene and astonish the masses with His awe inspiring good looks like a person of Saul's physique.

1 Sam 9:2 And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

The fact is the prophets foretold the exact opposite in regards to the appearance of the Messiah. I don't believe it was that Jesus was born physically disfigured like the character

Quasimodo that the writers made reference of. Let me suggest it the visualization of a man arrested, mocked, scourged, and brutally hung on a cross for the entire world to see that made His form deplorable.

Isa 52:14 Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;

Isa 53:2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

Prior to entering the garden Jesus prays to His Father and refers to the magnificence that they shared before the creation and one that Peter, James and John had caught a glimpse of when He appeared with Moses and Elijah.

Joh 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Mt 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

The Lord would never expect us to endeavor for a goal that He had not already striven for and achieved. Christ would do us a disservice by going ahead us on the trail of life picking up all the rocks and sticks and putting up guardrails on all the sharp corners.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

It shouldn't shock us to encounter those in this life that would deride our faith and attempt to dissuade us from the truth. Jesus forewarns us of the trials to come and having knowledge of mistreatments ahead helps us to prepare for them

1 John 3:13 Don't be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.

2 Tim 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

1 Pet 1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

We are to emulate our Lord and be willing to bear our crosses daily for Him because we are promised that if we will pattern ourselves like He did while in this life we will be like Him in the next.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- Bruce J. Dehut

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TO CHEW ON HABITS ARE LIKE CUCUMBERS

A good father, after punishing his young son the third time for a repeated offense, took the boy to the pantry and brought out a quart bottle. In the bottle was a large cucumber. The neck of the bottle was so small and the cucumber so large that the boy wondered how it could ever have gotten there, and how he would ever get it out. After letting the boy puzzle over the problem for a while, the father called him out into the garden and showed him another bottle

slipped over a little bud. He said, "You see, son, the cucumber grew up in the bottle and when it was grown it could not get out. Habits are like that. If we grow into them when we are young it is very difficult for us to slip out of them later." Most all of us have, at one time or another, fallen into habits that we deplore, and have had to fight with all that we are worth to break. We realize then that if we had only stopped to think at the very beginning our way would be much easier now. The drunkard, dope addict, gambler or criminal may even lose his life because of a habit he let grow so large that he could not escape its effect. Others lose business and have friends forsake them. Many others lose their souls because of habits. On the other hand good habits may also be like cucumbers. If we learn to do good, it will be very difficult to shun our opportunities. If we get used to attending services, the week just won't be right if we miss. If we give as we should we'll learn the joy of giving. Examine yourself and your habits. Form the good. Avoid the bad.

- Author unknown

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Sevice

Announcements: Arvil Young

Song Leader: Wayne Runner

Opening Prayer: Mark Sharp

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner
Chuck Sharp
David Shepherd
Joe Shepherd

Scripture Reading: Randall Hood

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Closing Prayer: Mark Smith

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: Arvil Young

Song Leader: Wayne Runner

Opening Prayer: Jim Phelps

Scripture Reading: Randall Hood

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner

Closing Prayer: Chris Runner