

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

JULY 9, 2006

Watch Your Step

As toddlers our parents watched with delight when we took those first few precious steps. When our children were that age my wife and I would sit on the floor just a few feet apart and encourage our youngster to waddle over to the other parent. We were also very careful to remove any obstacles out of the path of the unbalanced little one so no harm would befall them and discourage them from continuing the attempt. It didn't take long before the child was not only walking with ease and confidence but had to be warned to slow down indoors.

God our Father watches us, His children, with the same care and excitement. As

we walk the path of this life, God doesn't run ahead of us and clear every stone or fill in each pothole along the way. Instead, He has provided us instruction and direction on how we should proceed. He warns us of the dangers and points the way to a more secure foothold.

PLACES AND CONDITIONS TO AVOID:

- **Darkness:** Walking at night poses unforeseen dangers. Without proper illumination we are apt to stumble and fall every step of the journey. **Psalm 82:4b-5a ...the wicked. 5 They do not know, nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; John 12:35b he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.**

- **Craftiness:** A child of God doesn't resort to trickery or unscrupulous conduct. Many have abused the word of God for dishonest gain. **2 Corinthians 4:2a But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully.**

- **Sinful Behavior:** Those who are not Christians walk in a world of sin. **Colossians 3:5-7 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.**

- **After The Flesh:** When a person rejects

the love of God and denies His saving grace it is usually due to a desire to fulfill the appetite of the flesh. **2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,**

- **The Wrong Guide:** Our vision is limited by the here and now, yet many times a person believes they have a better sense of direction than God does. **Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.**

GET ON THE RIGHT PATH

- **Walk In The Light:** John the Baptist bore witness to Jesus Christ the Light of the world. **John 1:7-9 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.** He came into the world and demonstrated numerous times why we should faith in Him and in so doing becoming heirs ourselves. **John 12:36a "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."**

And when we give heed to the will of the Father He is faithful to forgive our sins. **1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

- Give Thought To How You Walk: Dashing haphazardly through life is certainly detrimental to us. God has blessed us with physical existence upon this planet yet each person's life span varies. It behooves us to use our allotment of time with thoughtfulness and in giving praise to our maker. **Ephesians 5:15-16 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**

- In Good Works: God has a purpose for mankind. Granted, we all possess a free will to choose whom we shall serve but God's intent was for us to exalt Him above all others. **Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

- In The Spirit: Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Paul makes it crystal clear in the verses following what the works of the flesh are. The desires of the flesh are

nailed to the cross when an individual lives their life in such a way as to bring forth a bounty for the Lord. **Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**

- Follow The Right Guide: We must trust the Lord with our lives and have full assurance He will lead us to life everlasting. **Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Revelation 7:17 "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."**

Our feet will never stray or fall from the path of righteousness if the Bible is our map. **Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. 2 Peter 1:19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;**

- Bruce J. Dehut

Vacillate

No, I'm not talking about the petroleum product you slather on to help clear your sinuses or hide your wrinkles. To vacillate means to waver in mind, will or feeling: to hesitate in choice of opinions or courses.

A former president was accused quite often of waffling on the issues. I believe this stems from a desire to please all the people all the time, but it just isn't possible to accomplish that feat. We must be firmly grounded in our convictions and understand that ultimately we will only answer to the Lord. We as members of the church, are to stand strong and secure in proclaiming the word of God. **1 Timothy 3:15 ...which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

Felix the governor and king Agrippa both vacillated about their eternal well being. (**Acts 24:25 & 26:28**).

Just prior to his death, Joshua brings to the remembrance of the children of Israel that God had given them lands for which they had not labored, cities which they had not built, and how they ate of vineyards and olive groves which they had not planted (**Joshua 24:13**). Knowing that God had provided all this for them he tells them to fear the Lord and put away the foreign gods (**Joshua 24:14**). Joshua concludes by requesting the people to select whom they would obey and assuring them that he would not vacillate in his convictions (**Joshua 24:15 ...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD**").

There is an old adage that states; He who hesitates is lost. Vacillation is hesitation, and it's not worth risking our souls.

- Bruce J. Dehut

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: Doug Smith

Song Leader: Arvil Young

Opening Prayer: Chuck Sharp

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner
Steve Smith
Andy Milliner
Kenny Case

Scripture Reading: Mark Smith

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Closing Prayer: Mike Shepherd

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: Doug Smith

Song Leader: Arvil Young

Opening Prayer: Jim Phelps

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner

Closing Prayer: Jim Covington