



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

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

AUGUST 26, 2007

Raised To Walk A New Life

In Romans six, Paul tells us that we are raised from the waters of genuine New Testament baptism to become a new person. Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again, born anew, born from above. In I Peter 1.3, Peter speaks of praising God for giving us this new birth and its accompanying hope. Can I ask a challenging question of us all? Are we changed people? Different folks? Peculiar? Holy? Living sacrifices? Instruments of righteousness? Are we any different since our baptism than before? It's not too late to be the people and person God raised us from our new birth to be... AMEN?

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

Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehnt
Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request

oakgrove.churchofchristonline.org

Raised To Think Differently About Ourselves.

Scripture warns us about thinking more highly of self than we ought, and placing our own interest, our own rights, above the interests and rights of others. Overcoming pride is difficult, but Paul helps with this admonition, *Stop comparing yourselves with yourselves and start comparing yourselves to Christ.* How many of us look good or worthy when we compare ourselves to Jesus?

Raised To Think Differently About Others.

We must set aside envy, jealousy and hate. Perhaps the greatest witness against such thinking is the family of Jacob. Envy and jealousy caused division and disunity. They set a mother against her husband and her older son. They caused sons to lie to their father. Hate caused brothers to contemplate murder. Hatred denied this family genuine happiness. Some of us don't have good family times because of such attitudes. Let's put these behind us and enjoy the relationships with others that God created us for.

Raised To Control Our Tongues.

Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil. Most of us think it's childish to bite others with our teeth, but think nothing of biting them with our tongue. James says, *a biting tongue is full of deadly poison.* Solomon writes, *cruel words crush the spirit.* The good life that Jesus came to make possible is available only, only, when we learn to control our tongue.

Raised To Control Our Sexual Lust.

Jesus didn't say lust leads to sin, He said lustful thinking is sin. Television, videos and the internet allow things to take place in our own living rooms that never took place in Sodom and Gomorrah. Sexual lust is an illusion. It's a lie. Sexual lust can *never* really be satisfied. The more pornography we see, the more we want to see. This evil desire grows and grows, becoming so intense, that it drives its victim to do hideous things to themselves, others, even to children.

But becoming someone special, different, new, is more than just excluding bad habits. There are other, nobler things which we must *add*, which we must *pursue*, in order to live the new life we are raised to live. The old man must be crucified and the new must appear.

Raised To Pursue Righteousness.

God's people love righteousness. Righteousness is simply that which is right. Righteousness is nothing more than doing the will of God. David said, *The statutes you have laid down are righteous.* At His baptism, Jesus told John, *It's proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.* Those of us interested in pursuing righteousness will make God's will a part of our daily thought and walk.

Raised To Become Godly.

Godliness is that which is God-like.

Godliness includes the moral attributes of God, the fruit of the Spirit... Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control. Mercy. Forgiveness. Graciousness. Truthfulness. Indeed, the fruit of the Spirit is an outward sign that God is living in us through the Spirit He gave us.

Raised To Grow In Faith.

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is a trust and confidence in God and His word, His promises and His warnings. Faith is trusting God enough that we will obey His every command. Faith is more than just mental assent, more than just believing. Like Enoch, we will walk with Him. Like Abel, we will offer the correct sacrifice, in our case a living sacrifice. Like Noah, we'll prepare our way of escape from this world. Like Abraham, we will go when and where God calls.

And Yes, We Are Raised To Love.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Religion without love is no religion at all.

Raised To Persevere.

Perseverance must finish its work. Scripture tells us that the reward, the crown, is for those who are willing to fight

the fight, finish the course, keep the faith. Forgiveness and eternal salvation are for those who are willing to keep-on-keeping-on, those willing to continue to walk in the light, those who never give up their faith in Him.

Well, are we living differently today than before our being born again? There are some things we must exclude from our *thoughts and walk*. While other things we must pursue in order to be those who have been born anew of *water and Spirit*. What do you and your writer need to do to be God's person... to live this newness of life?

- Randall Caselman

Perpetual Cleansing?

By Bruce J. Dehut

If we lived in a country where all you had to do was pledge allegiance to the laws of the land once and from thence forth could conduct yourself according to your own conscience, even if contrary to the country's statutes, chaos would reign. Yet many people are convinced that is how Jesus Christ has established His kingdom, the church. They would have you believe that after your initial confession that Jesus is Lord that you are set for life even if you fall back into the ways of the world.

To enter into the kingdom of Christ a person must: Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, be Baptized (Immersed), and **BE FAITHFUL**

UNTIL DEATH (Revelation 2:10b). None of the steps can be neglected if an individual desires to obtain eternal life, including living a life as close to the Lord as possible. *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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 (1 John 1:6-7).*

Even after becoming children of God there are times when we stumble in our Christian walk and He has provided an avenue for the removal of those transgressions. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).* We have recorded for us an example of a person who went through the process described. Simon the sorcerer had obeyed the gospel yet soon after was enticed to sin by his passion for preeminence (**Acts 8:9-19**). The apostle Peter gave Simon the remedy for his sinful condition, *"Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you" (Acts 8:22).*

We should not lull ourselves into a false sense of security by thinking once we have complied with the gospel call we can never fall. Please give careful consideration to the writings of the apostle Paul, *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Romans 6:1-2).*

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

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

Opening Prayer: **Steve Smith**

Lord's Table: **Wayne Runner
Kenny Case
Randall Alford
David Shepherd**

Scripture Reading: **Mike Shepherd**

Sermon: **Brandon Yates**

Closing Prayer: **Jim Phelps**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

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

Opening Prayer: **Chuck Sharp**

Sermon: **Arvil Young**

Lord's Table: **Wayne Runner**

Closing Prayer: **Larry Runner**