

**February 19, 2023**

## R.A.D.

by George Slover

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

“Recognize, Avoid, and Defend”: this was the motto of my son’s martial arts class. It was a simple three-step strategy for handling confrontation. This sounds like a good way to avoid the temptation of Satan.

First, we must recognize the enemy and his allurements. The above verse plainly tells us Satan is the enemy. He is always looking for someone to devour. There are often warning signs that tell us this situation is dangerous before we fall. Be wise. Be watchful. Know and understand the enemy. He is strong and wants you to fall!

Second, we must avoid. The best way to overcome temptation is to avoid situations that will cause us to stumble. Solomon’s advise for avoiding the temptations of the harlot: Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house, (Proverbs 5:8) Paul advises young Timothy to “flee youthful lusts” (II Timothy 2:22) Solomon’s counsel concerning wine: Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. (Proverbs 23:31-32) There

are only two reasons why one would compromise this principle: 1) naïve, or 2) rebellion.

Third, we must defend. There will be times when the bait will still be placed before us. On those occasions we must fight. We must use everything at our disposal, all of the armor God supplies (Ephesians 6:10-18), and persistence in prayer in order to win.

The battle is real. It is a daily struggle. It is our duty to look ahead for danger signs, learn to walk away, call out a Scripture, and pray. God’s promise: Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

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## Amazing Plan - Awesome God

by George Slover

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33)

The above is Paul’s grand conclusion to this section of the Roman letter. He has demonstrated how man, by God’s providence, can proceed from “the role call of the damned” (Robert Turner) to the blessed state of righteousness.

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Our Gospel Meeting** with Bubba Garner - April 2-5

**Gospel Meeting** - Lakewoods Drive, Georgetown, February 24-26

**Gospel Meeting** - San Marcos, March 3-5

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

(Rm.5:1,2) Paul marvels at how God has so worked in the history men and nations so that he could offer such a wonderful gift to Jews and Gentiles.

The apostle has three subjects of admiration – the riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God. Paul admires the depth of these three- “depth” meaning vast, incomprehensible, or unfathomable. Words cannot express nor can one fully comprehend the riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God!

Riches denotes God’s abundant blessings and mercy. The pardon of sin, the gift of Christ, and hope of heaven are vast and wonderful! That God would offer such great gifts to one as wretched as I is unimaginable. Such incites the praise of Paul.

Wisdom acknowledges the method God chose to accomplish his mission. Certainly, man was not wise enough to devise his own plan. By a cross (I Cor. 1:18-25) which seems so weak and foolish, God confounded all the experts! When all of this is contemplated and history is traced Paul greatly esteems the wisdom of God who fulfilled his mission!

Knowledge has foreknowledge in mind. God so worked in the history of man (Hb.9:26) to bring the Savior into the world at just the right time. By his wisdom the whole world heard the gospel in 30 years! (Col 1:6,23) God worked in the lives of men and rulers of nations and overcame every obstacle to make his grace available. (Tit.2:11-16)

Indeed, how unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! Certainly, no man can counsel the Lord. He is left to do nothing, but to stand in awe and humbly submit to God’s wishes!

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

**Randall Vanaman** is having difficulties with his feet.

**Doug Adair** is preparing to have surgery on his back

**Mike McMurray** is under treatment for prostate cancer.

**Elain Kersch** is undergoing treatment for her lung scarring.

**Dinah Williams** is having cataracts removed in April.

*If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.*

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
**(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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