

# Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. • Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: [oakswestchurchofchrist.com](http://oakswestchurchofchrist.com)

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

## My Rock, My Refuge

by George Slover

“A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, And a cover from the tempest, As rivers of water in a dry place, As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.” (Isaiah 32:2)

Just who is this man of whom Isaiah speaks? It must be messianic for there is only one man who can fully provide all that is mentioned in this verse. There was never but one man, Jesus Christ, who could be to all others what is predicated here. Consider the wonderful qualities of Jesus here mentioned.

Jesus wants to be our hiding place from the wind and a cover from the tempest. When the winds of affliction blow, we can hide in Jesus. In times of natural grief, or when the enemy threatens, he offers to be our shelter. He enlightens our mind, can change our spirit, and can be our confidant. We can lean upon Him and trust in Him.

Jesus wants to be our river of water in a dry place. A river gives refreshment. It is a source of life in a desert land. In the wilderness of life, any refreshment that we enjoy comes from Christ. He is a "fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14)

Jesus wants to be our “shadow of a great rock in a weary land”. This is an Eastern picture of shade. The

“weary land” is a picture of pilgrims passing through the scorching heat and blinding sun of life. God’s people have a rock that follows them and provides shade at any time. Its shadow of the cross offers forgiveness. Its shadow of brethren provides sympathy. Its shadow of hope provides comfort.

“Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee!”

### “Out of The Heart....”

by Rickie Jenkins

The heart is where our character and actions begin. This is why Solomon said, “keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23). As it has been said, “Sow a thought, reap an act. Sow an act, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.” Evil thoughts are the groundwork for all other sins.

Jesus taught this truth to His disciples: “The things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man.” Defilement comes from the heart. “The heart” is the seat of the whole person: mind, imagination,

### 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

**Gospel Meeting** with Steven Locklair at Junction Highway in Kerrville, September 22-25

**Gospel Meeting** with Mark Roberts at Northwest in Austin, September 27-29

**Our Gospel Meeting** with Ruben Amador is scheduled for October 13-16

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

affections, conscience, and will. "Heart" is often used as a synonym for "mind." Therefore, our Lord was condemning the wickedness of impure thoughts.

We need to spend time thinking about our thoughts because the sinful thought comes before the sinful act. No one ever "falls" into adultery, or accidentally becomes materialistic, or trips into bitterness and anger. No, sinful desires precede sinful acts. Further, the sinful thought needs to be repented of every bit as much as the sinful act.

Thoughts are as sinful as actions. We sometimes downplay the sins we allow to linger in our minds. We think they're not so bad as long as we don't act on them. Yet, this was the problem of the religious people in Jesus' day. Jesus constantly corrected the Pharisees who appeared righteous but were willing to tolerate the sins of the heart. They thought no one else could ever discover what was really inside them. But our Lord knew what was in their hearts. He said, "you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness." They did right on the outside, but inside they fostered all kinds of evil thoughts.

The Pharisees' teaching was so embedded, that it was commonly believed evil thoughts were not really sinful, as long as they didn't become acts. That is precisely why our Lord targeted sins of the heart in His Sermon on the Mount, when He said that being angry with a brother, and lusting after a woman are sinful just like the acts that result from them.

What should take place in our minds and hearts? What should be the deepest secret of our souls? To worship God. That is why He says, "give in secret, pray in secret, fast in secret...for your Father who sees in secret will repay you." To sin in the mind, therefore, is to desecrate

the very sanctuary where our highest and best worship should be taking place.

Sins of our mind are soul-coloring sins, character-damaging sins. Because they work so directly against the conscience and will, dealing with them honestly and thoroughly is one of the most difficult aspects of overcoming our sin. If we ever want to see real progress in transformation we must deal decisively with the sins of the mind. If we allow our thoughts to be influenced by the values of the world, our conscience will surely be dulled. The Old Testament sage wrote, "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."

## Prayer Requests

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

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

**Don Simmons** is at home and on constant oxygen.

**Jay Parker's father** has cancer. His mother has had some recent health problems as well.

**Jimmy Stinnett** is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

**Jerry Richardson** is undergoing radiation treatments for lymphoma.

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)

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.

### Evangelist

Darrell Trammel  
Darrell@oakswestchurchofChrist.com

### Elders

George Gresham  
Darrell Trammel

### Deacons

Jim Turner  
Clay Hallmark

### Contact Us

Address:  
P.O. Box 675  
Burnet, TX 78611  
Call: (512) 756-4493  
E-Mail:  
oakswestchurch@gmail.com  
Website:  
oakswestchurchofchrist.com