

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

OCTOBER 13, 2024

Commitment Is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

Though skeptical of his teenage son's newfound determination to build bulging muscles, one father followed his teenager to the store's weight-lifting department, where they admired a set of weights.

"Please, Dad," pleaded the teen, "I promise I'll use 'em every day."

"I don't know, Michael. It's really a commitment on your part," the father said.

"Please, Dad?"

"They're not cheap either," the father said.

"I'll use 'em, Dad, I promise. You'll see."

Finally won over, the father paid for the equipment and headed for the door. After a few steps, he heard his son behind him say, "What! You mean I have to carry them to the car?"

Commitment goes beyond shallow promises and impulsive pleas. It is deep. Devoted. And dedicated. John Maxwell observed that commitment "separates dreamers from doers." Or as Arthur Gordon put it, "Nothing is easier than saying words. Nothing is harder than living them day after day."

"Commitment is what transforms the promise into reality. It is the words that speak Boldly of your

intentions. And the actions which speak Louder than the words. It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time after time, Year after year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; The power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph Of integrity over skepticism." (Top definition in the Urban Dictionary)

One of the most fundamental aspects to our faith and to the Bible basics we've been writing about is our commitment. Our commitment to Christ. Our commitment to His Word. And our commitment to daily Christian living.

While the word "commitment" is not found in English Bible translations, the concept is taught throughout the Old and New Testament.

Commitment is embodied in Jesus' challenge, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Lk. 9:23).

Commitment begins in a heart that loves God. It is induced by a conscience that is both tender and taught. It is established by the intellect in the choices we make. It is fueled by our passionate zeal for spiritual things. And it is sustained by the will or votion that with purpose seeks to serve the Lord.

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 Ruben Amador is scheduled for October 13-16

Gospel Meeting - Cedar Park, October 13-16

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, October 18-20

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

Commitment is not only the key to our relationship with the Lord, but it is indispensable in developing meaningful relationships with others and is vital to growing a spiritually bonded fellowship within the Body of Christ. A happy home and a mutually satisfying marriage are impossible without commitment. Nothing worthwhile in life is achieved apart from commitment.

Sadly, as Dr. Charles Stanley once wrote, "Too many Christians have a commitment of convenience. They'll stay faithful as long as it's safe and doesn't involve risk, rejection, or criticism. Instead of standing alone in the face of challenge or temptation, they check to see which way their friends are going."

God's greats exemplified the essence and character of commitment that we need to imbibe.

Faithful Abraham believed God's promise when it seemed not only improbable, but impossible.

Joseph stayed true to his values and honored God regardless of his brothers' betrayal, a wicked woman's seductions, or a unfair punishment when innocent.

Humble and meek Moses endured the hardship of the wilderness, the incessant grumbling of the congregation, and the sins and setbacks of God's people to become one of the great leaders of all time.

The three Hebrew captives in Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, refused to bow to the King's image in the face of being thrown into the burning, fiery furnace.

Daniel would not abandon his practice of daily prayer to God, defying the King's decree, he trusted God to deliver Him from the Lions' den.

Peter and John disavowed and disregarded the orders to quit

preaching Christ and boldly proclaimed, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Paul suffered persecution, imprisonment, stoning, beating, and misrepresentation by his fellow Pharisees because of his commitment to be "crucified with Christ."

May we find the strength and depth of Christian commitment as expressed by author Bob Moorehead: "My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in a maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, let up, or slow up."

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

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.

Karen Hallmark

Marcia Neuhaus

Jean Smith has moved to Silver Creek Assisted Living in Lampasas, Room 15.

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Jean Smith, Dinah Williams

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.

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