

Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Life Changing Grace

by George Slover

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age," (Titus 2:11-12)

Experiencing the grace of God is life changing. It has the power to turn one from a course of rebellion and destruction to a path of obedience and hope. The Cretans were a powerful example of the ability of God's grace.

The reputation of the Cretans was not good. Paul says, "One of them, a prophet of their own, said, 'Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.'" (Titus 1:12) In chapter 3 Paul reminds them of their past life. They were known for their foolishness and disobedience following their own passions and pursuing selfish pleasures. Accepting God's grace involved a renunciation of this past life. "Ungodliness" and "worldly lusts" (Titus 2:12) express the epitome of all that is sinful and wrong! This kind of life was to be renounced!

A rejection of the worldly life is not enough! Grace compels one to adopt the right course of life. In chapter 3 Paul reminds them to live lives that are submissive, obedient, gentle, and ready for

every good work. To live "soberly" (2:12) is to hold a mastery over our passions and impulses. To be "godly" is claim the presence of God in our everyday life.

This means a radical change took place in the lives of the Cretans. Old habits are hard to break and new ones difficult to begin, but God's grace and kindness was the life changing motive that prompted them to take this painful step. "Hope"

(Titus 3:13) would encourage them to persevere!

As we grow in our appreciation of God's love, it will prompt us to live God approved lives.

Enjoy The Good Days

by Rickie Jenkins

It seems our days are often filled with anxiety, frustration and discouragement. Life gets heavy. The bills and the needs of our children. Also, the management of our homes and relationships. All of that can seem overwhelming.

But out of all those days come the days when everything goes right. We accomplish what we wanted for the day. All the children seem to be in a good place. It was a good day because

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

Ladies' Class - February 25

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, February 28 - March 2

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

they all got along with one another. Our marriages are healthy and selfless. The job is a joy rather than a grind. The sun shines instead of the skies being overcast. The birds sing. Everything is bright. We need those days. Appreciation grows out of difficult moments. We see good in everyone and in everything all around us. The good days keep us trying.

How can we recognize and appreciate those days? Remember all the good God has done for each one of us. We must remind ourselves of how God has carried us through life. He carries our burdens. We cast our cares upon Him. Remember that time in life when everything seemed like we were doomed for failure and destruction. We made it through because God provided and protected us. On that good day, remember.

Further, recognize that nothing is as bad as it seems. Have you ever said, "There is always someone who has it worse off than I am?" When the storms of life come, and the dark clouds gather, remember that as bad as the days seem to be, the sunshine is right around the corner. Have you ever noticed after a severe storm the next hour or next day the sun shines? That is the way it is with life. The storms will pass. The good days will return. In the dark days pray. In the good days rejoice.

Also, be thankful for those good days. It is a challenge to be thankful when the days are hard. But when the sun shines, when everyone is healthy and smiling, thank God! Then, we can count our blessings and be thankful for them. It is so easy to forget when the good days come to remember to thank God. It is such a relief to be able to breathe. One thing I remember my granddad saying is, "The bad days will make you

appreciate the good days." Be thankful.

Finally, be humble. If the days are good, they are good not because of our strength and beauty, but because they are a gift from God. Be careful not to be like Job's wife, "Curse God and die." Oh, she enjoyed the good days but when the hard times came, she stumbled. The mistake is that neither she nor Job made those days good. God did. Satan caused hard days to come, and she can only curse God. Job had it right. He did not turn his back on God but remained faithful to Him. It is so easy when the good days come to forget God and lift ourselves up and think we did this. Be humble.

Enjoy the good days! They are refreshing. Life is filled with good days and difficult days. Both have their place. Look past the moment and appreciate what both can do for each one of us.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jay Parker's father passed away.

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

Dinah Williams is having some issues with her legs from diabetes.

Dorothy Steadman will be undergoing radiation treatment.

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Dinah Williams, Marcia Neuhaus, Shirley Perkins

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.

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