Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: Following 1st Service
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

OCTOBER 4, 2026

Last Things First

by Dan Shipley

{article originally published in Plain Talk, December 1972}

The scene is Shechem. The occasion is Joshua's farewell address just prior to his death. All the tribes of Israel are assembled to hear the aged Joshua, now 110, as he begins recounting God's dealings with their great nation. Showing that God has continually been with and helping them, he concludes, "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth,,." (Josh. 24:16)

The scene is Jerusalem. David is nigh unto death as he gives this last charge to his son Solomon: "...I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies..." (1 Kings 2:2, 3)

The scene is a Roman prison. Paul is writing his last epistle. In giving his final charge to Timothy, he reminds the young evangelist not to be ashamed of the gospel (2 Tim. l:8); to hold the pattern of sound words (1:13); to suffer hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus (2:3); to give diligence to present himself approved unto God (2:15) and to persevere with urgency in preaching the word (4:2) with the assurance that a crown of righteousness awaits all the faithful (4:8).

Such are the words with which these great men of God conclude the final chapter of their earthly existence. The last words of any dying man are generally regarded as having special significance, but the words of these men ought to be especially so regarded—not so much because of being last words necessarily, but because of

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 Next Gospel Meeting with Terry Slack is scheduled for November 1-4

Gospel Meeting - Leon Valley, October 4-7

Gospel Meeting in Kerrville - October 11-14

Gospel Meeting in Cedar Park - October 11-14

Gospel Meeting in San Marcos - October 30-November 1

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

who they were and what they said with these words.

Joshua, David and Paul were men who had given most of their lives in consecrated service to the Lord. God had used their tongues and talents extensively to serve His purposes among men. Through experience and revelation they accumulated such wisdom as experienced by few mortals. Joshua, for instance, knew how the lack of faith could prevent one's entering into God's rest. David understood about temptation and sin, and Paul himself had made the transition from "chief of sinners" to ambassador for Christ. As few others could, they perceived how the will of God compliments the greatest needs of man—so their last words deserve an attentive hearing.

And what do we hear? Though different in expression and separated by hundreds of years, we hear messages that are strikingly similar. All emphatically recommend to others the same course they have now finished. All emphasize serving the Lord. Essentially, they are saying to all who shall come after them, "Live for the Lord!"; or, as another wise man put it, "fear God and keep His commandments". After all, that's what living is all about. Theirs is a lesson we must learn! Apart from truly reverencing God and walking in His ways, man can have no meaningful existence here nor hope of life in the hereafter. As those destined to go "the way of all the earth", may the last words of these godly men find first priority in our lives.

Bible Reading for this week:

Monday: 1 Kings 2:1–3:15, John 3:22–36

Tuesday: 1 Kings 3:16–4:34, John 4:1–20

Wednesday: 1 Kings 5–6, John 4:21–45

Thursday: 1 Kings 7, John 4:46–54

Friday: 1 Kings 8:1–21, John 5:1–18

Prayer Requests

Jimmy Stinnett, Jim & Judy Trammel, Autumn Felps

Terry Berhns is struggling to recover from hospitalization and procedures.

Doug Adair had some heart issues again and was hospitalized.

Kayla Meadows' aunt passed away.

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Dorthy Steadman, Dinah Williams, Terry Berhns.

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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