

Ponderings From the Pastor

By Brad Taylor, Pastor

Last week Pope Francis approved a measure that allows Catholic priests to offer blessings to same-sex couples. But none of us, including the Pope has the right to bless what God calls sin. Isaiah 5:20 says, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil ...” A “blessing” from a religious leader will not save a person from the judgment of God. The good news is that God will forgive the sin of someone involved in homosexuality. However, the individual must come to God according to His word and His terms and not their own.

We live in a time when “everyone is doing whatever is right in his own eyes” (Deut. 12:80). The idea that everyone should get to define for themselves what is right and true is



a recipe for disorder and disaster. This is the value system that rules the current generation. Truth is regarded as a matter of personal perspective. People believe nothing can be known with certainty. This is not a new perspective. Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” (John 18:38). Then the common phrases “my truth” and “your truth” suggest that everything is ultimately just a matter of perspective. Thinking all truth claims are nothing more than just personal opinions. Claiming every point of

view, no matter how crazy demands equal respect. However, there is zero tolerance for moral absolutes.

Regardless of what people may say or claim, scripture says, “God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:19-20). Our world is resisting accountability to God. They are sup-

pressing the innate knowledge and ignoring and trying to explain away what is revealed about God. Because fallen minds (so-called religious leaders included) refuse to see what is obvious.

The end result is “a depraved mind” (Romans 1:28) a mind given over to wickedness, irrationality and contempt for everything that is righteous. In an act of divine judgment, God withdraws His grace and allows an individual (or culture) to reach a point of moral and spiritual foolishness. We have watched this play out as our culture has been indoctrinated to accept and even encourage every imaginable kind of depravity and “alternative lifestyle.”

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'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship'



Submitted by Mindy Taylor, Worship Leader

*Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time
To give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are
Before your God
Come*

*One day every
Tongue will confess
You are God
One day every knee will bow*

*Still the greatest treasure
Remains for those
Who gladly choose You now
Repeat Chorus*

A new year is starting, and now is the time to come worship our King. Forget the resolutions and change that to confession, be ready in season and out to work for the Lord. The new year of 2024 is laid out before you, how

will you reach the lost?

1 Peter 3:15: But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

A new year and a new walk in Christ,

Mindy Taylor, Worship Leader

OGBC Youth News

Submitted by Matt Shepard, Youth Leader

December has come and gone, and a new year begins. Jesus was born, He lived, He died, and He rose again to give us an opportunity at eternal life through Him. Our main focus for the youth during Sunday School in December was OUR PRESENCE > OUR PRESENTS. You can give give give all you want, but what God wants is you. Find an area of ministry in the church today to serve — you won't regret it!

Our "Oh Holy Night" progressive dinner was a success! We had a great group of students and adults help make it happen. Special thank you to the Pruetts, Metzingers, and Zugelders for



Youth's "Oh Holy Night" progressive dinner.

opening their homes to our youth and the telling of the CHRISTmas story as we went! I also appreciate all Taylor, Murray, and Micah do as well!

Upcoming dates to know for youth:

Jan. 3 - Youth starts back up from

break.

Jan. 21 - Roller Skating 2-4 p.m. (more details TBA)

February - Chili Cook-Off & Desert Auction (exact date TBA — thinking 18th or 25th).

March 1 - Winter Jam at BOK Center 6 p.m. (departure time TBD).

January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1 New Year's Day		3 Awana & Youth, 6:30 pm		5 Robin Whitlock bday; Adult Game Day, 11am	6 Brittaney Day bday
7	8	9	10 Awana & Youth, 6:30 pm	11 Crafty Christians, 10am	12 Cindy Johnson & Francis Orndorff bdays	13
14 Mindy Taylor bday	15	16	17 Mary Ann Walker bday; Awana & Youth, 6:30	18 Jeana Drew bday	19	20
21	22	23	24 Brandon Drew & Kathleen Henry bdays; Awana & Youth, 6:30 pm	25 Crafty Christians, 10am	26	27
28 Geraldine Higgins bday	29	30	31 Awana & Youth, 6:30 pm			

Children's Church News

Submitted by Margaret Gaulding

Happy New Year!

On Jan. 7, we will learn about John the Baptist— based on Matt. 3, John 1:29-36.

Jan. 14, the lesson will be on Nicodemus — based on John 3:1-21.

The lesson for Jan. 21 will be about the Great Commission, and on Jan. 28, the

children will hear about Paul meeting and baptizing Lydia at Philippi.

January Sermon Calendar

Sermons from Colossians

Jan. 7 — Christ above All, Col. 1:15-19

Jan. 14 — Reconciled to God, Col. 1:20-23

Jan. 21 — Fulfilling the Word of God, Col. 1:24-25

Jan. 28 — Christ in You, Col. 1:26-29

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Anyone who is offended or appalled by such things is considered ignorant and intolerant. Meanwhile, nothing is more politically incorrect than religious belief. Genuine faith in God is looked at as having a

point of view that is disqualified to be heard. We desperately need a generation of men and women who will open their eyes to what is happening in our culture and flee to God. The good news is God offers full forgiveness for those who heed the call of Jesus and come to Him in repentant faith.

Happy
New Year

January Daily Bible Reading Plan

Jan. 1 Colossians 1:1–14	Jan. 12 Mark 2:18–28	Jan. 23 Acts 8:4–25
Jan. 2 Colossians 1:15–23	Jan. 13 Mark 3:1–19	Jan. 24 Acts 8:26–40
Jan. 3 Colossians 1:24–2:5	Jan. 14 Mark 3:20–35	Jan. 25 Acts 9:1–25
Jan. 4 Colossians 2:6–19	Jan. 15 Mark 5:1–20	Jan. 26 Acts 9:26–43
Jan. 5 Colossians 2:20–3:4	Jan. 16 Mark 5:21–43	Jan. 27 Acts 10:1–33
Jan. 6 Psalm 72	Jan. 17 Mark 8:1–26	Jan. 28 Acts 10:34–48
Jan. 7 Colossians 3:5–17	Jan. 18 Mark 8:27–9:1	Jan. 29 Acts 11:1–18
Jan. 8 Colossians 4:2–18	Jan. 19 Mark 9:2–29	Jan. 30 Acts 11:19–30
Jan. 9 Mark 1:1–20	Jan. 20 Mark 9:30–50	Jan. 31 Acts 12:1–19
Jan. 10 Mark 1:21–45	Jan. 21 Mark 10:13–34	
Jan. 11 Mark 2:1–17	Jan. 22 Mark 10:35–52	

Watch OGBC Online Each Sunday

If you are unable to worship with us in person, you can log in to Facebook to watch the service online at <https://www.facebook.com/oak.grove.94043>.

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