

# The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

Meeting Weekly At Our Building Located At:  
14 CR 3240, at the intersection of FM 1402 N. (Mailing Address: P.O. Box 523), Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455, (903) 572-0859  
Church Website: [www.churchofchristoakgrove.com](http://www.churchofchristoakgrove.com) or, [www.ogcoc.net](http://www.ogcoc.net)

David A. McCain, Gospel Preacher & Bulletin Editor, (903) 285-1756 (M)

Volume VI ..... Sunday, June 24, 2018 ..... Number 25

## Guest Editorial: "Overcoming Sin In Our Lives"

**(Editor's Note:** Our annual summer **Gospel Meeting** is only six weeks away from **today**. Please be sure to mark and reserve on all your calendars (if you have multiples like me) the dates of **Sunday, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>** thru **Wednesday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>**, for our special evangelistic series on the theme: *"What Jesus Taught."* Our honored guest evangelist this year will be **Dr. Mike Price**. Mike lives in Picayune, MS, and preaches for the Lord's church across the "Pearl River," in Bogalusa, LA. **Brother Price** is an accomplished preacher and personal evangelist, but also has a marriage and family counseling practice in southern MS & LA. He has done mission work in China. He is well-known in the southeastern United States for both his marriage enrichment and personal evangelism seminars.)

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). It is amazing how God continues to reach out to us when it is the sinfulness of man that has marked and spoiled God's creation, leaving an indelible stain. Sin makes our existence difficult and unhappy, bringing spiritual and physical death. Sin distorted the perfect world God created and scars nature as all creation groans under the weight of human evil and God's judgment, needing redemption.

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God" (Romans 8:18-21).

Humans are given to the worship of self. A fact clearly seen in paganism or nature religion, and the worship of science. It is a bottomless pit, in which human beings sink, when they reject God's Divine direction. Man perceives he is in trouble and has looked for ways out of the mess he has created. Man has tried political systems such as - monarchies, oligarchies, dictatorships, republics, democracies and none have solved or subdued the evil exploits of man.

Nothing tames his desire to kill, to lust after or envy being full of greed and hatred. We have tried economic systems from capitalism to socialism to communism. We have developed secular philosophies to make sense of things, such as, Existentialism, Humanism, Pragmatism, Hedonism, Analytical Philosophy, Progressivism, Postmodernism, Nihilism and others. We have advanced in medicine and surgery for overcoming sickness and death, yet we still get sick and die. We have invented and built machines for saving labor and increasing private and public wealth. We have trained

and developed psychological and psychiatric interventions that are designed to alter man's actions and the motives of his heart, but have continued to fail.

What has been the result of man's effort to make things better and to overcome the evil that plagues him? Well, it is apparent that he cannot solve his problem! Sin still reeks havoc in our world. None of our efforts have proven effective in eliminating the power of sin! What is so insane is that man keeps trying the same things over and over again. He assumes he just has to tweak it a little more and he will finally get it right.

Without God this is impossible! Only God can overcome the power of sin. His Son, Jesus Christ is his champion and our hero.

"During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 5:7-10).

We have not been left to struggle on our own. God's love is the glue in this world that keeps things together and is the only remedy for overcoming the power of sin, and changing the nature of man's heart. As Christians, we have not only received the forgiveness of sins and escaped the wrath of God, but he has given us his Holy Spirit.

**Mike Price**