

Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist: Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ
9203 Thixton Lane
Louisville, KY 40291



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

**"And let us consider one another in order to
stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24**

DECEMBER 11, 2005

Brightly beams our Father's mercy

*Brightly beams our Father's mercy
From his lighthouse evermore;
But to us he gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.
Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save.*

D.L. Moody, the notable 19th century evangelist, told in a sermon the story of a Lake Erie ship nearing the harbor at Cleveland. It was a stormy night and the waves were high. Seeing only the light from the lighthouse, the captain asked the pilot, "are you sure this is Cleveland?" "Quite

sure," replied the pilot. "But," said the captain, "where are the lower lights the lights along the shore?" The pilot replied calmly, "they've gone out, sir." He assured the captain that they could make the harbor. Then Moody concluded his sermon with the comment, "beloved, the Master will take care of the great lighthouse; let us keep the lower lights burning."

Philip P. Bliss, well-known musician, songwriter and Christian leader, listened intently to Moody's sermon. Following the service, Bliss wrote both words and music and later published this song in a small Sunday school collection in 1871. (From William J. Reynolds)

Even people who have never walked the Galilean coast or seen the rugged rocks along parts of the Atlantic or Pacific oceans can appreciate the need for "lights" in this world of darkness.

Sin brought death and darkness into the world but there would come a time when peoples lives would be illuminated once more: (*Isaiah 9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.*). So it was that mankind yearned to catch a glimpse of this light prophesied so long ago and some thought that a man who baptized people in the Jordan river was that light to come. *John 1:6-8 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.* John rightly accepted his role as the forerunner of the true Light from heaven, Jesus of Nazareth. *John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in*

darkness, but have the light of life."

Even though Christ was "The Light" and His brilliance will never dim, He also gave instruction to us to shine forth for the purpose of reflecting the Son's light and giving honor to God. *Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

We are all given our little corner of the house (world) to brighten. The gospel was first heard by the Jews on the day of Pentecost as Peter raised his voice above the rest and many responded (*Acts 2:38*). But God had also intended for the good news of His Son to travel to all peoples everywhere when He speaks of a portion of the work of Paul and Barnabas in *Acts 13:47: "I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth."* Christians have been blessed because our hearts have been enlightened by the love of God through His Son and we now have a responsibility to keep that light glowing bright in our daily lives. *Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.* I encourage us all to shine forth so that some soul lost in the sea of sin may turn their rudder towards the Light that is Jesus and they may rest peacefully on the shores of heaven.

*Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!*

- Bruce J. Dehut



TO CHEW ON

QUOTES FROM C.S. LEWIS

- "Whenever you find a man who says he doesn't believe in a real Right and Wrong, you will find the same man going back on this a moment later."
- "We regard God as an airman regards his parachute; it's there for emergencies but he hopes he'll never have to use it."
- "Surely what a man does when he is taken off his guard is the best evidence for what sort of man he is..."
- "Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained."
- "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

Sincerity

Beads of sweat bubbled to the surface of the shop owner's forehead, it was a warm day but not to the extent to cause such a sauna affect. The elderly customer turned towards the skylight in the middle of the store and elevated the vase between his eyes and the streaming sunlight flooding the room. His wife stood patiently by as he rotated the container first to the right, than to the left, he inspected the base and rim for any signs of deficiency attempting to satisfy such a colossal purchase. The seconds seemed like hours to the proprietor and worse yet, the old man hadn't said a word during this examination period, the silence was deafening. Finally, without explanation he hands the vase back to the shop owner, expresses his thanks for the opportunity and walks out with his bride. As they settle into the private confines of their car his wife, knowing the scrutiny of her husband, asks gently, "so what was wrong with it?" "There were tiny hairline cracks around the pedestal that a person couldn't see without a good going over" he replied. She countered by saying "Well, the item was still a worthwhile investment even with those few imperfections." The wise old man concluded, "It wasn't so much the condition of the vase but the lack of integrity of the man trying to pawn it off as perfect."

Philippians 1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; 10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that

ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; 11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

This passage embodies the thoughts of our story. We as God's people are to utilize spiritual wisdom to discern those things that are pure and holy and our character is to be such that under close examination, we may be found genuine.

Albert Barnes expresses it this way:
A sincere Christian would bear to have the light let in upon him always; to have the emotions of his heart seen; to be scanned everywhere, and at all times, by men, by angels, and by God.

Jeremiah 18:3-4 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

Integrity isn't found in the gluing of fractured pieces back together or covering over the cracks with another coat of gloss. True sincerity is only derived by the skillful hands of the Creator placed upon our broken life and having Him reassembled it into a vessel useful in His kingdom. It is us allowing God to reshape us in the image of His Son.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- Bruce J .Dehut

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Sevice

Announcements: **Brian Shepherd**

Song Leader: **Arvil Young**

Opening Prayer: **Bill Milliner**

Lord's Table: **Wayne Runner**
Jim Phelps
Robert hood
Chris Runner

Scripture Reading: **Mark Sharp**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Mark Smith**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Brian Shepherd**

Song Leader: **Arvil Young**

Opening Prayer: **Jr. Stout**

Scripture Reading: **Mark Sharp**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Wayne Runner**

Closing Prayer: **Joe Shepherd**