



# The Sword

*“And take... the sword of the Spirit,  
which is the word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17

“The Sword” is published weekly by the OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST, as a teaching and information tool for the congregation. Articles are intended to encourage the study of God’s Word every day! — Jack W. McNiel, editor

**Volume 17 - January 24, 2010 - Number 4**

## **“Who Shall Approach God?”** *by Jack McNiel*

Psalm 15 was written by King David some 3,000 years ago. It poses a very interesting and vital question: “Who will be allowed into the presence of God and be counted among His people?”

*“LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved....”* (Psalm 15)

In Psalm 15:1, David posed the question in two parts. “Who shall abide in

thy tabernacle? (Psalm 15:1a) Abiding in God’s tabernacle refers to those who are able to approach God. Under the Jewish Law, only the High Priest was able to enter into the Holy of Holies, which represented the throne room of God on earth. Leviticus 16, tells us that before he could enter into the presence of God, the High Priest had to be first cleansed, and then arrayed in his holy garments. And then, he had to make an atoning sacrifice for himself and his family before he was able to approach the mercy seat. Only one who has been made clean from sin can be in God’s presence. Habakkuk 1:13 tells us that God, “canst not look on iniquity...” He went on to ask, “Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?” IN other words, “Who will be included among God’s people?” God’s “holy hill” references spiritual Jerusa-

lem or Zion. Figuratively speaking, God's people dwell in Zion, the spiritual seat of God's spiritual kingdom.

In Psalm 15:2-15, David lists the conditions that one must meet for access to God and to be counted among His children. There are six positive conditions... he that:

1. **Walketh uprightly.** To walk uprightly means to live in perfect obedience to God. If we are to approach God we must do so without sin in our life. While we are never going to be able to live sinlessly perfect, we must strive to live in accordance to God's will and to constantly seek forgiveness for and repent of those sins which we do so often commit.
2. **Worketh righteousness.** To work righteousness means that we do the will of God. One must seek to know God's righteousness and to put it into practice.
3. **Speaks the truth in his heart.** One must be totally committed to the truth, both in doing the truth and teaching it. One must live a life of integrity before God and men.
4. **Condemns the vile person.** Has no respect for those who are morally worthless and will have no part in their evil deeds.
5. **Honors those who fear God.** Instead of associating himself with the morally bankrupt. The one who would approach God honors those

who have a like-minded respect for God and His Word. His fellowship is with his fellow Christians.

6. **Swears to his own hurt and changes not.** In order to be a faithful child of God, one must be true to his word - even if it costs him dearly.

There are five negative conditions:

1. **Backbiteth not with his tongue.** One who does not slander or speak evil of others
2. **Nor doeth evil to his neighbor.** One seeks only what is best for others and does not render evil for evil.
3. **Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor.** One who does not make his neighbor's faults or misfortunes the object of his ridicule or sarcasm.
4. **Putteth not out his money to usury.** Never lends money at interest to a brother in need i.e. does not take advantage of or seek to profit at the expense of others.
5. **Takes no reward against the innocent.** One who does not take bribes to render judgments against the innocent; one who is merciful toward his fellow man.

These eleven conditions must be met by one who seeks to approach God and to dwell in His presence as one of His children. David said, "He that doeth these things shall never be moved."

## NEWS AND NOTES:

### OUR PRAYER LIST:

#### Congregation:

- Shirley Nield was able to be with us at services last Sunday. She is still not able to go back to work after her recent sickness.
- Please remember in your prayers all who have been sick, bereaved or in the hospital recently: Marjorie Alley, Freda Bentley, Lloyd Cooper, Irene Jennings, Jim O'Connor, Wendell Osborne, Alberta Petering, Opal Reed

#### Friends & Family:

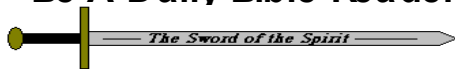
- Gina McGinnis, a frequent visitor here, gave birth to a baby boy last Monday.
- Shauna Heck continues to battle cancer.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST:

#### Oak Grove:

- There will be a youth devotional following the Sunday evening service. If you would like to help with expenses, see Jack.
- We will be restarting the Sunday afternoon Bible class from 4:45-5:30 pm each Sunday, beginning Feb. 14. We will be studying Personal Evangelism part 2.

**Keep Your Sword Sharpened  
– Be A Daily Bible Reader!**



## SERVING ONE ANOTHER:

### LEADING IN WORSHIP: *January 24*

Announcements: Claude Andrews

Usher: Melvin Lunn

Lord's Table: Vint Hall

West: Bob Alley – Justin Liljegren

East: Ryker Shelley – Tom Dyke

#### Sunday AM

Song Leader: David Wiesemann

Opening Prayer: Jeff Gochenaur

Second Prayer: Leland Reed

Scripture Reader: Dean Evatt

Sermon: *Ephesians 5:25-27*

*"What Must the Church Do to be Saved?"*

Closing Prayer: Tom Newberry

#### Sunday PM

Song Leader: Sean McLaughlin

Opening Prayer: Claude Andrews

Sermon: *Galatians 6:17*

*"The marks of the Master"*

Closing Prayer: Brayden Shelley

#### Wednesday Night:

Song Leader: Brayden Shelley

#### January 20

Devotional: Jack McNiel

Closing Prayer: David Wiesemann

#### January 27

Devotional: Tom Newberry

Closing Prayer: Darrell Andrews

### OUR CURRENT RECORDS:

#### Wednesday: *January 13*

Bible Class 102

#### Sunday: *January 17*

Bible Class 106

AM Worship 87

PM Worship 72

Contribution \$1,892

Budget \$2,061

*The King James Version is requested for  
pulpit, classrooms, & scripture reading.*

## Work Program 2008-2009

Team	Leader/s	Next Assignment
1	Jack McNeil	Feb. 7
2	Roger Stephenson	Feb. 14
3	Walter Hutcherson	Feb. 21
4	Vernon Logan	Feb. 28
5	Dustin Hall	Mar. 7
6	<i>Roy Smith Tim Smith</i>	<i>Jan 24</i>
7	Justin Liljegren Dixon Liljegren	Jan. 31

### WHO WE ARE:

The Oak Grove Church of Christ is independent of any denominational organization. We are not associated with any national or world headquarters. Yet, we cooperate voluntarily with our sister congregations in the Lord's work and fellowship.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to "*be perfectly joined together in the same mind and ... judgment...*" (1 Cor. 1:10). We try to follow the basic, innocent faith that was proclaimed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

If you are earnest about learning more by means of studying the Holy Bible and obeying what it says, you will truly find a home here at Oak Grove Church of Christ.

## Oak Grove Church of Christ

104 SW 6th Street,  
Oak Grove, MO 64075 (816) 690-4599  
www.ogchurchofchrist.org

### Head of the Church:

Christ (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18)

### Elders: (1 Tim 3:1-7)

Claude Andrews  
Walter Hutcherson  
Richard Petering  
Lowell Smith

### Deacons: (1 Tim 3:8-13)

Darrell Andrews  
Dean Evatt  
Vint Hall  
Hershel Hunt  
Leland Reed  
Tim Smith  
David Wiesemann

### Preacher: (2 Tim 4:1-5)

Jack W. McNeil  
Office: (816) 690-4599  
Cell: (816) 522-2584  
ogchurchofchrist@embarqmail.com

### – Schedule of Services –

#### Sunday:

Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.  
Worship – A.M. 10:20; P.M. 6:00

**Wednesday:** Bible Study – 7:00

**Bi-Monthly:** "House to House / Heart to Heart"