



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

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“The Humility of Jesus” (Part 2 of 4) by Jack W. McNiel

Jesus complied with every commandment of righteousness. There could be no doubt that Jesus of Nazareth was in full compliance with the will of God, especially given the fact that after His immersion, He arose from the water and *“the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him. And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased....”* (Mat 3:16-17) Jesus’ public submission to the will of God and the subsequent announced approval of God was the starting point of Jesus’ public ministry. In it, we receive a clear demonstration of Jesus’ humility in lowering Himself, the Sinless One, to be immersed by such a one as John, who was himself, admittedly, in need of receiving the remission of sins at the hand of Jesus.

John’s statement, *“I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?”* illuminates the characteristic humil-

ity demonstrated throughout the life and especially the death of Jesus. Perhaps no passage of scripture elucidates this facet of the character of Christ more than does Philippians 2:5-8, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

Let it be noted that we are to have the same mindset as Jesus did with regard to humble servitude and submission. We are commanded, *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”* (Phil 2:3-4). Then we are pointed to the example of Jesus

Christ, *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...”* We are to imitate Jesus in our humble submission to God and servitude to His cause.

In order to fully understand the concept of living a life of humble submission and servitude toward God we need to grasp something of the magnitude of Christ’s example. Let us observe the language of Philippians 2:6-8. Verse 6 states, *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God...”* The word I want us to observe closely is the word “form.” Burton Coffman quoted John A. Night as follows, “The Greeks had two words for “form,” one of them referring to mere external appearance, as when a mirage takes the appearance of water ... the other suggests that the appearance is the true revelation of the object itself, the form participating in the reality. It is the second word (*morphe*) which Paul here employs.”

Fritz A. Reinecker defines *morphe*, as used in verse 6 and 7, “The outward display of the inner reality or substance. Here it refers to the outward display of the Divine substance, i.e., divinity of the preexistent Christ in the display of His glory as being the image of the father.”

Preincarnate, Christ was in the form of God - He was Divine Spirit. As John affirmed, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...”* (John 1:1) Jesus, *“thought it not robbery to be equal with God...”* The ASV reads that Jesus *“counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped...”* His equality was not something He needed to “grasp for” or seek to attain - He had it as

a right since He was God! Jesus existed in form as equal to God, but in order to begin His mission to reconcile man back to God, He, *“made himself of no reputation...”* (v.7a). Or, as the ASV translates, He *“emptied Himself...”* He divested Himself from all the advantages of Deity, casting aside for a time, the glory that was His by right being in the “form of God.”

In doing so, He took upon Himself, *“the form of a servant...”* (v.7b) The same word is used here as was used in verse 6. Christ revealed another aspect of His true nature, or form, in His submission and servitude with regard to the Father’s will. He took upon Himself the role of a servant to the Father. And going further, He *“was made in the likeness of men...”* (v.7c) Vincent wrote on this passage, “Likeness of men expresses the fact that His mode of manifestation resembled what men are... As He appealed to men, He was like themselves, with a real likeness; but this likeness to men did not express His whole self. The totality of His being could not appear to men, for that involved the form of God. Hence, the apostle views Him solely as He could appear to men. All that was possible was a real and complete likeness to humanity. What He was essentially and eternally could not enter into His human mode of existence. Humanly He was like men, but regarded with reference to His whole self, He was not identical with man, because there was an element of His personality which did not dwell in them - equality with God...” (Vincent’s Word Studies)

Continued Next Week...

NEWS AND NOTES:

OUR PRAYER LIST:

Congregation:

- Rachel Smith has been having problems with kidney stones.
- Beth Evatt has had sinus surgery,
- 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,

Friends & Family:

- Congratulation to Vint and Roxanne Hall on the birth of their new grandson Asher, son of Shane and Jennifer Hall.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

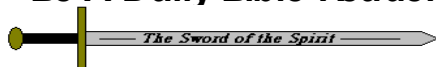
Oak Grove:

- April 11-14: Gospel Meeting with Marvin Rickett
- Ladies' Class 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 AM.
- Personal Evangelism II each Sunday 4:45–5:30 PM.

Local Area:

- April 23-25: Brad Harrub: The Truth About Origins Seminar—Harrisonville Church of Christ.

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



SERVING ONE ANOTHER:

LEADING IN WORSHIP: April 4

Announcements: Claude Andrews

Usher: Walter Reed

Lord's Table: Leland Reed

West: Vint Hall – Brent Hall

East: Tom Dyke – Dean Evatt

Sunday AM

Song Leader: Darrell Andrews

Opening Prayer: Tyler Jenkins

Second Prayer: Glenn Wyman

Scripture Reader: Dixon Liljegren

Sermon: **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

"The Resurrection of Jesus"

Closing Prayer: Hershel Hunt

Sunday PM

Song Leader: Walter Hutcherson

Opening Prayer: Bob Alley

Sermon: **Mark 1:14-15**

"The Preaching of Jesus Part 2"

Closing Prayer: Darrell Andrews

Wednesday Night:

Song Leader: Tyler Jenkins

March 31

Devotional: Walter Hutcherson

Closing Prayer: Darrell Andrews

April 7

Devotional: Eugene Jenkins

Closing Prayer: Hershel Hunt

OUR CURRENT RECORDS:

Wednesday: March 24

Bible Class 79

Sunday: March 28

Bible Class 76

AM Worship 94

PM Worship 85

Contribution \$1,860

Budget \$2,020

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

Work Program 2008-2009

Team	Leader/s	Next Assignment
1	Jack McNiel	
2	<i>Roger Stephenson</i>	<i>April 4</i>
3	Walter Hutcherson	April 11
4	Vernon Logan	April 18
5	Dustin Hall	April 25
6	Roy Smith Tim Smith	May 2
7	Justin Liljegren Dixon Liljegren	May 9

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,
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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. McNiel
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– Schedule of Services –

Sunday:

Bible Study – 9:30 A.M.

Worship – 10:20 A.M.; 6:00 P.M.

7: Bible Study – 7:00 P.M.

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