

Welcome to OakStone Community Church

May 17, 2026

Message: "Share what God has given you" (continued)

Passage: 2 Corinthians 8:8-15 | **Speaker:** Pastor Bill Wolter

Upcoming Events & News

Women's Monday Morning Bible Study – 9-10 AM

We will be meeting at the church in the Fellowship Room. You are invited to join us this week as we continue our study that focuses on the Attributes of God. For more information contact Janet at janetwolter51@gmail.com.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study – 6:30-7:30 PM

You are invited to join us as we continue our study in Ephesians. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bill at 951-970-2262.

Birth Choice Baby Supplies

Please remember to pick up some supplies for Birth Choice as you are out and about today. Thank you for being His hands and feet to those who have babies.

Missionaries to Pray for This Month – Mission Aviation Fellowship

Will and Julie White have served with Mission Aviation Fellowship since 1996. Will has used his pilot and mechanic skills to provide transportation and support for missionaries in Suriname and Haiti, taking on roles such as flight scheduler, and disaster relief coordinator, and Chief Pilot. Julie has focused on keeping the family grounded, extending hospitality in Haiti, and engaging in her children's school. She relies on Philippians 4:13 for strength: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Important Information

PLEASE there is no food or drink, except water with a lid, allowed in the sanctuary. We thank you for your cooperation.

Our **FOOD PANTRY** is available for those who need it.

An **AUDIO LISTENING DEVICE** is available for those who need assistance in hearing the message. Inquire at the sound booth.

INTERNET ACCESS is available: go to "occ", the password is "oakstone".

Tithes & Offerings

As you are led, place these in the designated box in the back.

The Heart of a Shepherd

I remember back some thirty-four years or so, when my wife and I began taking our annual vacation to southern Oregon. I was in a drugstore looking for some postcards to send home and one of the cards caught my attention, it was a photo of the freeway and showed only three or four cars on the I-5. The card read "*Rush hour on the I-5*". Coming from Southern California, we had a good laugh over it. But that was one of the attractions of our Oregon vacations. Everything moved at a slower more relaxed pace. Now, some thirty-four years later it seems as though the events of our lives resemble *rush hour on the I-5*.

Just the other day My wife and I were returning from San Diego during *rush hour* and if you have ever had the pleasure, you know what that means. There was an endless sea of cars and terrible drivers. "How did they ever get a license to drive anyway"? "Look at that jerk." "Where did all these people come from anyway". Those were some of my more disciplined thoughts. And then, as if the "scales" were removed from my eyes, I thought "How Selfish" I only have to take this drive occasionally, these poor folks do it every day!

C.H. Spurgeon wrote "*we cannot rise to the standard of friends of God if self is our ruling force; God is not selfish, and he is not the friend of the selfish.*"

I began to think about how our lives can resemble *rush hour on the I-5*. We can so easily get caught up in the events of our lives, whether they be relationships, physical health, financial burden, or any number of other things.

Life's difficulties can cause our eyes to turn inward and become blind to the need and hurts of others or they can make us all the more sensitive to the needs of others. Jesus understood the temptation to turn our thoughts inward. **Hebrews 2:18** "***For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.***"

No one understands another's pain more than someone who has been there, and no one is better equipped to offer love and compassion.

John 13:34–35 "***A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.***"

Pastor Michael

(Reprint from 4-30-2017)