

Welcome to OakStone Community Church

May 24, 2026

Message: "Blameless and above reproach"

Passage: 2 Corinthians 8:16-24 | Speaker: Pastor Bill Wolter

Upcoming Events & News

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

Due to Memorial Day our study will be canceled this Monday.

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

Psalm 37:37 "Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace."

As a noun, the term "**mark**" could define a target, an object of assault, a goal, an end in view, a stamp or something imprinted or engraved. I think that the word "**mark**" as used in the scripture above is telling us to recognize and single out that man who is following the Lord.

Is it difficult to be marked as someone who loves and follows the Lord? How hard is it to be that man who is not only a marked man, but a "**blameless man**"? In our strength it is impossible, but in His strength, we can do all things. **Philippians 4:13** "**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**"

Why is it so important for us to stay focused on those things that would define us as a "**blameless man**"? The answer lies at the end of **Psalm 37:37**, "**For the future of that man is peace.**"

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to press toward the prize in **Philippians 3:13-14** "**Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**" Keeping our eye on the "**prize**" so that we will be that marked man is an important aspect of living our lives before our Lord as well as those that we encounter during the course of our day.

I don't know about you, but I am constantly thinking about or gazing at a multitude of things during the day. Sometimes those things are good and at other times those things that capture my gaze are distractions that keep me from focusing on the prize that is set before me. At times, I feel as if I have become a marked man in a different sense, as I have allowed myself to become more familiar with the things of this world and less focused on the things of the Lord.

I suppose that I could justify my wandering thoughts, my misguided gazes, the day-to-day distractions of my life as simply part and parcel of what it is to be a sinner saved by grace. I suppose that I could, at times, not feel so bad about losing sight of the mark. Yet in reality, the mark that I carry is the mark which I bear because of whom I choose to love & how I choose to live.

Have you lost sight of the mark? Have you become unfocused? Have you set aside the things that glorify & magnify His name for the things that glorify & magnify your name?

We are blameless not because of what we do, but because of what God has done on our behalf. That does not excuse us from the practical application of holiness in our lives. Do you press forward? Are you a marked man? If then you press forward in the Lord and are marked because of your ability to imitate Him then as we are promised in the scripture that we opened with, "**the future of that man is peace.**"

Pastor Bill

(reprint from 6/03/2012)