PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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When Christianity Disrupts a Materialist Culture

Tyler King

As Paul journeyed throughout the ancient world and proclaimed the news of Jesus, he ran into several varying circumstances. Within these encounters of different people, he was often greeted with hostility and bitterness. This was especially true when he tried reaching out to non-believers in Ephesus.

In Acts 19, things seem to start in a good direction. Paul shows up, asks a few questions about the people's faith, and instructs them in a more advanced way than what they had previously experienced (Acts 19:1-8). We first see the opposition arise when Luke tells us of those who were "hardened," "disobedient," and "speaking evil of the Way" (19:9). Incredibly, that didn't seem to slow Paul down. In fact, the text says Paul began performing extraordinary miracles at this point. God's Word undoubtedly kept spreading throughout all the land even though there were some who remained hardened.

Paul then encountered a man named Demetrius, a silversmith who created shrines for the goddess Artemis. Demetrius gathered a bunch of men of the same trade and explained to them that Paul was taking away their business because he was converting people from polytheism into a faith of Jesus — making shrines and idols completely worthless (Acts 19:26-28). Paul placed such a precedence on Jesus and knowing Him, that it removed the need for a materialistic religion.

We do not live with a polytheist mind, and neither does our culture. Though there remain some similarities in principle. When "prosperity" (Acts 19:25) becomes a veil to the worth of Jesus, we can have assurance that we have missed it; we've missed the purpose and hope of life. Paul's words and actions were captivating enough to lead people away from such traps. However, in doing so, he also caused quite the disturbance. Sometimes the world will cause a ruckus when they see people follow Jesus. When we follow Christ, we fully acknowledge that we do not need those other things in life that so many others pursue. We belittle the passions and desires of this life, because we hold fast the worth of Christ and His resurrection. If people are disrupted by your faith, that is okay — it's happened before and it'll happen again. Paul took that experience and kept on in his journey, proceeding to Greece and Macedonia. We have a mission, a family, and a loving Father to keep us going along the way.

October 4, 2026

Sunday Morning
Opening Prayer Tim York
Closing Prayer Joey Jones

Scripture Reading Steve Fletcher

Sunday Evening
Opening Prayer Rhyan Dishroom
Closing Prayer Brandon Stowe

Remember in prayer:

Gartrelle Davison is in Advent/Redmond hospital, room 520; she will have a heart Cath Monday.
Rick Davison, Amanda Fletcher, Don Duncan, Chris Travis, Joan and Steve Henry, Ayla Alexander, Kenleigh Bailey, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Norene O'Kelly, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd.

Our monthly **Fellowship Meal** will be today after our morning services, then our 1:00 pm Kids Sing and Singing and Devotional.

Justin Glaze will preach next Sunday night.

Worship Service Assignments for October
Announcements: Adam Cordell
Lord's Supper:
Dallas York WK 1&2
Carter Logan WK 3&4
Joseph Tucker, Bo Eubanks, Blake Tucker

Record for the week of September 27, 2026:

10 am	11 am	5 pm	Wed	Contribution
85	79	71	77	$4381.92

No Greater King
Copied

Society and culture alike have compromised obedience in favor of freedom. The latter of the two has become so much of a priority, that submission remains an estranged discipline. Unfortunately, this is not "new" for humanity. It is the same old story that has been written for centuries on end.

As Samuel approached the finale of life, he recognized the need for leaders to continue after him, so he appointed his sons as judges over Israel. While filling the role as leaders, they were actively disobedient to God by taking bribes and twisting justice (1 Sam. 8:3). Upon seeing the evil, the elders of the Israelites took it upon themselves to offer a solution. The nations surrounding Israel all had kings, which invoked a covetous attitude in the elders. The Israelite elders told Samuel, "appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations" (1 Sam. 8:5).

The request of the elders seemed honorable, and even admirable. Though, the problem is rooted more deeply. If one were to keep reading in 1 Samuel 8, God resents their decision because "they have rejected me from being King over them." In attempting to solve their dilemma, the people of Israel sought an answer outside of God.

Several hundred years later, Paul would argue "let not sin reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions" (Rom. 6:12). While society places a priority on freedom and self-will, they fail to recognize that they are, in reality, serving the master of sin. In denying God as King, we remain subjects and servants to sin. Scripture adamantly reminds us of how good of a King God is. The world is faced with the impossible task of finding a God who loves more, cares more, guides more, and blesses more than the Lord of heaven.

Elders:
Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons:
Justin Glaze: Technology and Emergency Response
Carter Logan: Fellowship Room/Youth Activities
Adam Morgan: Song Leading/Safety and Security
Jerry Reaves: Worship Assignments/Building and Grounds

Minister: Hugh Glaze
Song Leader: Adam Morgan