Introduction: In the last couple years since the pandemic hit, we have had many, many families move to the Knoxville and Oak Ridge areas of East Tennessee. We worship with families who have come here from Indiana, Virginia, California, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, and Ohio. My ancestors came to Oregon on the Oregon Trail. One of my grandfathers also moved to Oregon in 1936 because of the dust bowl hitting Oklahoma at the time. What motivates families to move so far away from their homelands? Moving is a major undertaking for any family. The motivation may be for a better job, better economics, fulfilling a dream of owning a home, finding a better place to raise a family, etc. These are all noble motivators. I know a lot of those things were on my mind when I moved my wife and son to East Tennessee in 1990. And I wanted my family to be in a place where we could live and grow as Christians trying to get to Heaven! Seeking a better place is what motivates folks to sell their possessions, leave loved ones, pack up belongings, and in many ways start over. Because getting to that special place is worth the sacrifice and trials along the way! Tonight we want to explore, **What Motivated Jesus?**

We are members of the Oak Ridge church of Christ. We call ourselves Christians ([**Acts 11:26**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%2011:26)) and we hold to the Bible as our one and only Truth. Church of Christ is a biblical description of Christians who work together for the cause of Christ ([**Ro. 16:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%2016:16)). We are independent assemblies with no organization beyond our own number as described in [**Phil. 1:1**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Philippians%201:1). There are Christians across the world working with local congregations of God’s people such as described in [**Rev. 2**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%202)**-3**. Christians are members of Christ’s body, which is also known as His Church ([**Acts 2:47**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%202:47)**,**[**Eph. 5:23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%205:23)). Our mission is to stand for God’s truth (the gospel) and teach it to all people ([**Matt. 28:18-20**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%2028:18-20)**,**[**Romans 1:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%201:16)**,**[**1 Tim. 3:15**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=1%20Timothy%203:15)). We are accountable to our one and only Head Jesus Christ ([**Eph. 1:22-23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%201:22-23)**,**[**Col. 1:18**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:18)).

We want to touch on four motivators that can teach us how we can be more like Jesus.

**1. Pleasing The Father** (**Gen. 1:31, Jn. 8:29, Luke 3:22, Matt. 17:5, Col. 1:19, 2 Pt. 1:16-17**)

**2. His love for All** (**Matthew 20:27-28, John 1:29, Ephesians 3:14-21, 5:2, Hebrews 9:13-15, 10:10**)

**3. Victory Over Satan** – Winning is a great motivator (golf/b-ball/Football/Gin rummy)

(**John 16:33, 1 Cor. 15:54-58, Colossians 2:15, Rev. 1:4-6, 5:9-10, 7:13-17, 12:11, 15:12, 17:14**)

**4. Heaven** – (**Luke 5:16, 6:12, 11:1, John 14:1-6, 17:1-5**). Prayer keeps us as close to God as possible while on earth and is one reason Jesus prayed so much. To be like Jesus, we need to realize our time on earth is short and we long to be in Heaven with God!

**What motivates you? Are you pleasing The Father every day? Are you driven by your love for your neighbor? Are you winning your battle with Satan? Are you heading to a better place,** **Where God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are** (**Colossians 3:1, 1 John 5:7, Revelation 21:22-22:5**)?

Closing: We invite all in our audience to our Bible studies on Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday morning at 9am. We would love to study God’s together with you!

Please check the scriptures we have covered tonight. We want to help you in any way we can. Contact us for Bible studies by telephone, e-mail, or simply come to one of our assemblies. Contact: We assemble at 225 North Purdue Ave. in Oak Ridge at 9am on Sundays and 7pm on Wednesdays; oakridgechurch.com; larry.paden@oakridgechurch.com, murray.wade@oakridgechurch.com; (865) 693-1416.

Be motivated like Jesus today! If you are not a disciple of Jesus tonight, become one by repenting of your sins and being baptized to wash them away. Then start your walk to a better place!

We plan to have a re-airing of this program on Monday, August 15 and our next live program, due to the TV studies being closed for the Labor Day Holiday on September 5th, is planned for October 3, 2022 when we hope to study, **"The Ascension of Jesus!”.** We hope to see you next time on **"Speaking The Truth In Love".**