

January 14, 2018

## “Did You Think to Pray?”

Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
Olney, IL 62450  
217-218-0803

## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:20 am
Evening Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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For prayer to have the effectiveness God intends, it must be according to God’s will (**Matthew 6:7; James 1:6-7; James 4:3; 1 Peter 3:12**). When it is according to His will, its value is enormous (**James 5:16**). When Christians are in difficult situations, we should ask ourselves, (as the hymn encourages) “*Did You Think to Pray?*”

When we know someone in a tough situation, do we pray for him or her like the disciples did for Peter (**Acts 12:5**)?

When someone has wronged us, do we seek revenge, or pray for them, just as Jesus prayed, “***Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.***” (**Luke 23:34**; cf. **Matthew 5:44; Acts 7:60**)?

When we see evil, do we become angry at those in sin, or do we pray that God “***will send forth labourers into His harvest***” (**Matthew 9:38**) to help save sinners?

When those in authority make decisions that we disagree with, do we murmur, or pray “***for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty***” (**1 Timothy 2:2**)?

When trials come our way, are we anxious about them, or do we pray as instructed, “***Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you***” (**1 Peter 5:7**)?

We must trust prayer’s power, and obey **Philippians 4:6: *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.***”

# “From God or From Man?”

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Those seeking wisdom must distinguish between the wisdom from God and that which is from man. Consider a few examples of the difference between the two to see how far removed worldly “wisdom” is from the truth.

## ***The Bible:***

The world may teach: The Bible originated from the minds of men no less fallible than you or I.

But God says: All Scripture was given by inspiration of God (**2 Timothy 3:16**). While men physically took pen to paper, the words they wrote that comprise the Bible do not teach any man’s wisdom, but God’s.

## ***The Scriptures’ “Fallibility”:***

The world may teach: God’s commands need not be followed if they are “outdated” or do not “make sense.”

But God says: The truth’s never outdated (**1 Peter 1:25**). God’s ways and thoughts are far superior to ours (**Isaiah 55:9**), so it is not surprising that some commands do not “make sense” to mankind. It is not His Word that must change, but us. We must simply trust and obey (**Genesis 22:1-12**).

## ***The Church:***

The world may teach: The church is a man-made institution that must meet the public’s demands to attract numbers.

But God says: The church was built by Jesus (**Matthew 16:18**). The Lord determines who is added to His church

contingent on one’s obedience (**Acts 2:47**). Individuals in close proximity who have been added to the Lord’s church join together to worship God and edify one another. These individuals form local churches of saints (cf. **Ephesians 1:1**). There are no commands given to local churches to increase numbers by a certain “quota.” The church should, though, seek to convert as many souls as possible, while not compromising truth to do so. The church is to uphold truth (**1 Timothy 3:15**), and grow spiritually (**Ephesians 4:13-16**).

## ***Pride:***

The world may teach: To be successful individuals, we must become proud.

But God says: Pride comes before destruction (**Proverbs 16:18**). God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (**James 4:6**). The proud are sure to fall (**2 Chronicles 26:16; Daniel 4:28-33; Acts 12:21-23**). Those who are humble will be lifted up by God (**Luke 18:14; 1 Peter 5:6**).

## ***Life’s Purpose:***

The world may teach: Life is about “advancing” oneself by seeking to “fulfill one’s dreams.”

But God says: Life’s purpose is bringing glory to God by serving Him to the best of our ability (**Romans 12:1**). What is far more important than education, careers, money, or fame is whether or not we are pleasing God.

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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### Steps to Salvation

1. Hear-Matt. 17:5; Heb 1:2; John 6:45
2. Believe-Heb. 11:6; John 8:24, 20:31
3. Repent-Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
4. Confess-Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10
5. Be Baptized-Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
6. Be Faithful-Matt. 10:22; Rev. 2:10

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### Words to Consider

***"He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly."*** - Proverbs 14:29

***"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable."*** - Psalm 145:3

## Prayer List

Holly  
Barb  
Hickox's Granddaughter, Lyla (Leukemia)  
Harold (Prostate Cancer)  
John & Linda (Heart Disease)  
Sandy (Foot Injury)  
Betty  
Mabel  
Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)  
Snyder's Niece, Tessa (Serving in Jordan)  
Mike (Prostate Cancer)  
Cheryl (Breast Cancer)  
June's Sister, Nancy (Heart Irregularity)  
Norma (Injuries from fall)  
Dave (Surgery)  
Steve (Surgery)  
June & Family

### Daily Bible Reading

Jan 14 - Genesis 20-22; Matthew 6:19-34  
Jan 15 - Genesis 23-24; Matthew 7  
Jan 16 - Genesis 25-26; Matthew 8:1-17  
Jan 17 - Genesis 27-28; Matthew 8:18-34  
Jan 18 - Genesis 29-30; Matthew 9:1-17  
Jan 19 - Genesis 31-32; Matthew 9:18-38  
Jan 20 - Genesis 33-35; Matthew 10:1-20

***"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*** - Hebrews 4:12

**Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, January 07, 2018

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: Dan H

Evening: Darrell

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Harold

**Assignments**

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Steve

Table: Harold

Serve: Carlyle

Dan H

Travis

Joe

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Invitation: Larry

**Cleaning Building**

Jeanette

**Prepare Communion**

Jeanette

**Preaching**

Michael Hickox

**Anniversaries**

**Birthdays**

Jan 15 - Mike

Jan 17 - Raymond