

January 21, 2018

“Trust and Obey”

Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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The words “Trust and Obey” form the title to a hymn written by John H. Sammis. These words describe a key part of our responsibility toward God.

Notice some words in the final verse of the hymn: “*What He says we will do, where He sends we will go; Never fear, only trust and obey.*” This is a mindset that we should always have.

Those who desire the narrow path that leads to life must live lives God’s way. Instead of deciding how we want to serve God, it is our duty to simply let God use us as He pleases.

We should see ourselves as God’s purchased possession (**1 Corinthians 6:20**), and as the clay of God “*our potter*” (**Isaiah 64:8**).

When God asks us to do something, it is not our job to question if it is a good idea. It is our job to simply trust and obey.

Trust can be built by allowing God’s Word to take root in our hearts (**Romans 10:17**). Obedience should follow that trust (**John 17:17**).

“Trust and obey” is a simple, yet uncommon principle to have as the guide of one’s life. Yet, it is what God desires of us.

May we do what He says, and may we go where He sends. Never fear, only trust and obey.

“They Think It Strange”

Michael Hickox

1 Peter 4:3-4: For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

1 Peter teaches that following Jesus involves being “**a peculiar people**” (**1 Peter 2:9**) and living as “**strangers and pilgrims**” (**1 Peter 2:11**) who are set apart from this world. The word peculiar refers to the fact that the church is God’s purchased possession (see *Strong G4047*). As God’s people who are set apart for His purpose, Christians are different, and can even seem “strange” in the eyes of the world.

The one who has put off the old man (**1 Peter 4:1-2**) no longer fills his or her time with things such as “**lasciviousness, lusts, [and] excess of wine,**” but with soberness and prayer (**verse 7**), fervent charity (**verse 8**), hospitality (**verse 9**), and service to God and others (**verses 10-11**).

Living this life is not viewed as “normal.”

People “**think it strange**” when a man or woman chooses to stay at home instead of joining friends for a night of “partying.” “**They think it strange**” when a man and woman wait until marriage for sexual contact. “**They think it strange**” when one refuses to tell a lie, no matter how “small” the lie seems. “**They think strange**” when

one avoids gossiping and murmuring. “**They think it strange**” when one is asked what plans he or she has for the evening and replies, “I have an hour set aside to pray” or “I’m studying Titus this evening.”

People will think it especially strange if we used to be just like them but now speak against the things we once did.

Telling people we are Christians does not necessarily change this perception. Our society sees Christianity as a belief that Jesus is the Son of God (which is good) and a choice to assemble with saints (which is also good). But presenting oneself as a “**living sacrifice**” to God (**Romans 12:1**) involves a lifestyle change (**verse 2**), and many find this change strange.

God’s people have long been tempted to “fit in” with the world (**1 Samuel 8:20**), but God does not desire this (**James 4:4**).

This doesn’t mean we can’t fit in with the world on things God is indifferent about, like whether we prefer chicken or steak.

When it comes to spiritual matters, though, we should not be “**conformed to this world**” (**Romans 12:2**). We should be different from the majority.

Though the world’s opinions of us can be discouraging, may we remember that this world is not our permanent home.

On the Day of Judgment, we will either be glad, or wish, we took the narrow path that leads to life (**Matthew 7:14**)...the path just a few seemingly “strange” people take.

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

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

–Galatians 2:20

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)
June & Family

Daily Bible Reading

Jan 21 – Genesis 36-38; Matthew 10:21-42
Jan 22 – Genesis 39-40; Matthew 11
Jan 23 – Genesis 41-42; Matthew 12:1-23
Jan 24 – Genesis 43-45; Matthew 12:24-50
Jan 25 – Genesis 46-48; Matthew 13:1-30
Jan 26 – Genesis 49-50; Matthew 13:31-58
Jan 27 – Exodus 1-3; Matthew 14:1-21

"But [Jesus] answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

–Matthew 4:4

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Bible Study: Mark
Worship: John
Evening: Carlyle

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Jim

Assignments

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Reading: Travis
Announcements: Don
Table: Mark
Serve: Darrel
John
Mason
Jim

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

Invitation: Michael

Cleaning Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Preaching

Michael Hickox

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Feb 2 – Travis
Feb 5 – Mike
Feb 8 – Betty
Feb 13 – Darrell
Feb 15 – Dan D