

February 4, 2018

“Dost Thou Still Retain Thine Integrity?”

Olney Church of Christ

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

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 book of Job details Job’s loss of children, servants, and possessions (**Job 1:14-19**). After Satan also harmed Job physically (**Job 2:7**), Job’s wife asked, **“Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die”** (**Job 2:9**).

Job did not understand why his sufferings came upon him. Despite his uncertainties, Job answered his wife, **“Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?”** (verse 10).

As Job indicated, obedience to God should not be grounded on having our way.

The song *“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”* expresses a mindset that is pleasing to God. *“Mold me and make me after thy will”* is very different from, “if God makes my life what I want, then I will serve Him.”

The latter mindset is one of selfishness.

Loving God with all of the heart, soul, mind, and strength leads to pleasing God, controlling what we should, and being content with things out of our control.

Job’s wife saw obedience as something that is contingent on God giving us what we want. Job saw obedience as something that comes with no contingencies.

The answer to the question, “Dost thou still retain thine integrity?” should always be, “Yes.” Our obedience must be strong, in good times and bad.

-Michael Hickox

“Examine Yourself”

Michael Hickox

2 Corinthians 13:5: *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...*

After noting that some of the Corinthians were testing him (**2 Corinthians 13:3**), the apostle Paul turned the emphasis to who Christians should foremost test: ourselves. The need for self-examination is seen throughout Scripture.

Centuries before Paul wrote to the Corinthians, certain Jews had returned to Jerusalem after being taken captive. Upon their return, God intended for them to rebuild the temple, but they had not yet done so when God sent the prophet Haggai to them. God through Haggai exhorted them, “**Consider your ways**” (**Haggai 1:5,7**).

Examining ourselves and considering our ways does not mean reflecting on (1) how we “measure up” to others (**2 Corinthians 10:12**) or (2) how “successful” we are at living how the world says we should (**1 Corinthians 3:19**). Rather, it is an honest reflection of how closely we measure up to God’s will (cf. **Psalms 119:59**).

There can be a temptation to examine ourselves with a *fear* of finding that we are in error. This can lead us to shy

away from topics that might lead to big and unpleasant changes if we find out we’re wrong.

This is exactly the opposite of the approach we should have to self-examination. We shouldn’t be afraid of discovering our sins. We should be concerned about not discovering our sins.

Consider the example of Paul prior to his conversion. Jesus said he was kicking “**against the pricks**” (**Acts 9:5**). Like an ox who rebelled against his master and thereby caused himself harm, Saul was wreaking havoc as he rebelled against Jesus.

His recognition of how wrong he was did not lead him to say, “There’s no way I have been wrong all of this time,” and then run from the truth. Instead, Saul showed a desire to make things right immediately by saying “**Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?**” (**Acts 9:6**).

May we have a similar mindset as we search the Scriptures, reflect on how we can better serve God, and become “**doers of the Word**” when we find things that need fixed (**James 1:22**).

“**Consider your ways...Examine yourselves.**” Self-examination is important to be pleasing to 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

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

–1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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
Jerry (Throat Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

Feb 4 – Exodus 21-22; Matthew 19
Feb 5 – Exodus 23-24; Matthew 20:1-16
Feb 6 – Exodus 25-26; Matthew 20:17-34
Feb 7 – Exodus 27-28; Matthew 21:1-22
Feb 8 – Exodus 29-30; Matthew 21:23-46
Feb 9 – Exodus 31-33; Matthew 22:1-22
Feb 10 – Exodus 34-35; Matthew 22:23-46

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

–Joshua 1:8

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Bible Study: Darrell

Worship: Dan D

Evening: Harold

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

John

Assignments

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Reading: Steve

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Mike

Serve: Dave

Don

Travis

Joe

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Invitation: Travis

Cleaning Building

Donna

Prepare Communion

Donna

Preaching

Michael Hickox

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Feb 5 – Mike

Feb 8 – Betty

Feb 13 – Darrell

Feb 15 – Dan D

Feb 23 – Larry

Feb 28 – Donna

Feb 28 – Sandy