

March 4, 2018

## “By Way of Remembrance”

Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

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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

God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that all nations of the earth would be blessed through their seed (**Genesis 12:3; 26:4; 28:14**). God foretold of a time their descendants would be in captivity, but He assured that they would “*come out with great substance*” (**Genesis 15:13-14**).

In **Exodus 2**, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s descendants were in Egyptian bondage, and “*God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them*” (**verses 24-25**). Upon *remembering*, God led the Israelites out of bondage.

God exhorted the Israelites to *remember* Him, as He *remembered* them. He instituted the Passover to *remind* them of how He led them out of Egypt (**Exodus 12**).

While the Israelites were to observe the Passover to remember God, Christians observe the Lord’s Supper to remember Christ (**1 Corinthians 11:24**).

More generally, Christians should remember God’s will throughout our lives.

As Peter wrote to Christians, he wrote to “*stir up [their] pure minds by way of remembrance*” (**2 Peter 3:1**).

The Israelites who left Egypt *forgot* God (**Exodus 16:3; 17:3; Numbers 14:2**).

May we not forget God, but constantly study and think on God’s Word in order to remember Christ and His will for our lives.

# “People Don’t Change”

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In rejection of needed correction or to justify sin that “cannot be stopped,” the phrase “people don’t change” is sometimes used. While this phrase sounds wise to some, God’s Word teaches otherwise.

Consider the “Parable of the Prodigal Son,” in which Jesus spoke of a man who was [metaphorically] “**dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found**” (Luke 15:24). This son had to *change* in order to be described as such.

Consider the example of Peter, a man who denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:69-75), yet later had the faith to be an elder of a church (1 Peter 5:1).

Consider Paul, who persecuted Jesus and His followers (Acts 9:4-5), yet later dedicated his life to preaching that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 9:20).

Consider the Jews Peter spoke to on the Day of Pentecost, who had crucified Jesus (Acts 2:36), yet chose to give their lives to the One they had crucified (Acts 2:41-47).

These individuals had sinned drastically. Yet, they still had a chance to be saved.

This chance was contingent on changing. On being *converted*. This is the answer we must give when sin is in our lives. The answer is not to say “that’s just who I am,” but to “**go, and sin no more**” (John 8:11).

In 1 Corinthians 6:11, we find an example of individuals who had changed drastically. The Holy Spirit through Paul

listed characteristics of unrighteousness and then said, “***such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.***”

Like the Christians Peter wrote to, we can give up lustful and sinful ways. We can become “new creatures.” Notice the change alluded to in 1 Peter 4:3: ***For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles...***

It may be true that mankind has certain “predispositions” geared to unique character and conduct. For instance, some people are inclined to be introverted, while others are inclined to be extroverted.

Yet, when it comes to character and conduct that God’s Word specifies as good or bad, we cannot use this as an excuse for not changing. The Holy Spirit teaches that our character not only can, but *must* change if God commands it.

Regardless of our past, we have the ability to change. Through this, we can look at sin and say “such was I, but I’m different now. I’ve been cleansed. I’ve been sanctified. I’m walking in ‘***newness of life***’” (Romans 6:4).

All of us have the ability to make the changes God desires. May we never excuse ourselves from changing in ways the Lord desires.

## Area Gospel Meetings

## Prayer List

Casey Westside Church of Christ:

March 11-16 (with Tommy Peeler)

Mattoon Southside Church of Christ:

March 12-18 (with Chuck Bartlett)

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:

March 18-23 (with L.A. Stauffer)

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:

March 25-30 (with Ron Griffin)

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## 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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## Words to Consider

*"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"*

—2 Corinthians 4:17

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)

June & Family

Jerry (Throat Cancer)

## Daily Bible Reading

Mar 4 – Numbers 12-14; Mark 5:21-43

Mar 5 – Numbers 15-16; Mark 6:1-29

Mar 6 – Numbers 17-19; Mark 6:30-56

Mar 7 – Numbers 20-22; Mark 7:1-13

Mar 8 – Numbers 23-25; Mark 7:14-37

Mar 9 – Numbers 26-28; Mark 8

Mar 10 – Numbers 29-31; Mark 9:1-29

*"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:"* —Matthew 7:24

*"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*

—Matthew 24:35

**Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Bible Study: John  
Worship: Darrell  
Evening: Dan D

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Harold

**Assignments**

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Reading: Dave  
Announcements: Travis  
Table: Roger  
Serve: Mike  
Don  
Dan H  
Joe

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Invitation: Michael

**Cleaning Building**

Janice

**Prepare Communion**

Janice

**Preaching**

Michael Hickox

**Anniversaries**

Mar 22 – Raymond and Maxine  
Mar 28 – John and Cynde

**Birthdays**

Mar 12 – Ron  
Mar 13 – Harold  
Mar 15 – Anna