

March 18, 2018

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

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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“Am I Therefore Become Your Enemy, Because I Tell You the Truth?”

The question above was asked in Paul’s letter to the Galatians (**Gal. 4:16**). In this letter, the Holy Spirit through Paul addressed Judaizers who “added” their *false* doctrine to Christ’s truthful doctrine.

Paul rebuked the Galatians who heeded the Judaizers’ false message (cf. **Gal. 1:6-9**).

Because of Paul’s *genuine* love for others (cf. **Rom. 12:9**), he often opposed error like that in Galatia. He did not pretend to love by encouraging sin, but zealously cried “danger” when he saw others on a dangerous path.

In asking the question, “***Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?***,” Paul confronted a common reaction to warnings of danger. Instead of hearing constructive criticism as guidance that may help one improve, such guidance is often viewed as an “attack.”

If we are unknowingly driving down a dead end road and someone lets us know, we might thank them and turn around.

Yet, when many individuals are taking the broad path that leads to destruction, any who point such out are seen as enemies. Help is neglected, and defensiveness sets in.

This typical reaction makes it even more difficult for someone who genuinely cares to point out error, which should make us even more *appreciative* when one does so.

Those who love us enough to warn against sin should not become enemies, but friends.

May we heed the message of what God requires of us to be saved, instead of becoming angry at His messengers.

-Michael Hickox

“Never Man Spoke Like This Man”

Michael Hickox

In **John 7**, Jesus taught at the feast of tabernacles. Some of the chief priests and Pharisees, determined to “bring Him down,” “**sent officers to take Him**” (verse 32). When the officers returned empty-handed, the Pharisees asked why they had not brought Him. Their response was “**Never man spoke like this man**” (verse 46).

The officers were not inspired when they spoke these words. Yet, their perception of Jesus is a good indication of how unique His speech was. Consider a few of Jesus’ teachings that were perceived as different:

“**He That is Greatest...**” - The world perceives greatness as “moving up the ladder.” Those who “get to the top” are considered great. Yet Jesus said “**he that is greatest among you shall be your servant**” (Matthew 23:11). Jesus did not come to earth to win a popularity contest or acquire great wealth (cf. **Luke 9:58**), but to serve mankind (Matthew 20:28). He taught that those who do likewise are truly great (cf. **Philippians 2:4-5**).

“**Love Your Enemies**” - The world urges getting “revenge” on those who treat us poorly. Such might be seen as “standing up for oneself.” Yet, Jesus said “**Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you**” (Matthew 5:44). Jesus taught that vengeance belongs to God (cf. **Romans 12:19-21**).

“**Except Ye...Become as Little Children**”

In another passage where Jesus spoke of greatness, He taught, “**Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven**” (Matthew 18:3). The Bible teaches that we are hopeless without God (cf. **Romans 6:23**). Though the world may stress pride and “self-sufficiency” as honorable character traits, Jesus stressed humbling ourselves as little children who recognize our need for Him.

“**Blessed are the Meek...**” - The world sees meekness as weakness. Yet, the Lord said “**blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth**” (Matthew 5:5). Much like humility, meekness is necessary for allowing ourselves to be guided by God. Meekness does not mean yielding to sin in order to submit to others, but it does involve *proper* submission, and allowing ourselves to be molded like clay by our Master. This is not a weakness, but rather a strength, according to our Savior.

These are just a few examples of things Jesus spoke that may have been perceived as different by those who heard Him. They may seem just as different today.

Jesus’ speech was this way because He taught wisdom from above rather than the wisdom of this world (cf. **John 7:16**).

May we heed Christ’s “**words of eternal life**” (John 6:68), realizing it is *His* doctrine, and not the world’s, that leads to salvation.

Area Gospel Meetings

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:
March 18-23 (with L.A. Stauffer)

Ellis Church of Christ (Dugger, IN):
March 18-23 (with Donnie Oliver)

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

“And let us not grow weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

–Galatians 6:9-10

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)
 June & Family
 Jerry (Throat Cancer)
 Mattie (Leukemia)

Daily Bible Reading

Mar 18 – Deut. 16-18; Mark 13:1-20
 Mar 19 – Deut. 19-21; Mark 13:21-37
 Mar 20 – Deut. 22-24; Mark 14:1-26
 Mar 21 – Deut. 25-27; Mark 14:27-53
 Mar 22 – Deut. 28-29; Mark 14:54-72
 Mar 23 – Deut. 30-31; Mark 15:1-25
 Mar 24 – Deut. 32-34; Mark 15:26-47

“Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.” –Psalm 119:33-35

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, March 18, 2018

Bible Study: Steve
Worship: Mike
Evening: Michael

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Carlyle

Cleaning Building

Janice

Prepare Communion

Janice

Upcoming Reminders

March 24: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

April 22-27: Gospel Meeting
with Andrew Roberts

June 9: Vacation Bible School

Assignments

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Reading: Travis
Announcements: Don
Table: Steve
Serve: Dan D
John
Dave
Jim

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Invitation: Larry

Anniversaries

Mar 22 – Raymond and Maxine

Mar 28 – John and Cynde

April 9 – Don and Jeanette

April 9 – David and Janice

Birthdays

April 2 – Don