

April 1, 2018

Olney Church of Christ

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

Services

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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| Bible Class | 7:00 pm |
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The Word of Our Creator

by Michael Hickox

2 Timothy 3:16-17: *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

The Creator of this universe communicates to us “***all things that pertain unto life and godliness***” (2 Pet. 1:3). How He does this is not a “mysterious” thing, or something only done for a select few. Rather, it is through the Bible. As the Word of our sovereign God, the Bible is infallible.

Many, like Pilate, ask the question “***What is truth?***” (John 18:38). Jesus answered this when praying for His disciples in John 17:17: ***Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth.***

The infallible truth contained in God’s written Word, the Bible, is not *only* available to satisfy man’s curiosity about how the world came to be. God’s Word leads to something more significant than knowledge alone...our salvation.

The Gospel is the “***power of God unto salvation***” (Rom. 1:16). The Bible teaches about the dreadful condition our souls are in due to sin (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). Yet, it also teaches how we can have forgiveness of sin through God’s grace. This gift is not earned, but God requires obedience in order to receive it (Phil. 2:12). The works

The Word of Our Creator

(Continued)

of obedience He requires are all revealed in the Scripture He has authored.

Despite this, many ignore the Bible.

“Self-help books” are popular, but “***all things that pertain unto life and godliness***” are neglected. Thoughts of men are praised as profound and powerful, but thoughts of God are brushed aside.

This may be due in part to a belief that the Bible is outdated. God gave an answer for this in **1 Peter 1:24-25**: ***For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the Word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the Word which by the Gospel is preached unto you.***

Another reason some ignore the truth is because it does not “make sense.” Using our own wisdom, we might expect something different than what God teaches.

It takes humility to realize that “***the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God***” (**1 Cor. 3:19**). Instead of trying to fit God’s will to our pre-conceived ideas about right and wrong, we must change our ideas of right and wrong to fit God’s will. When we do the latter and hear God’s Word with the right heart, we will have no doubt that it is truth from Him.

Once we recognize the Bible as truth from God, we should desire it as a newborn babe desires milk (**1 Pet. 2:2**).

The Bereans referenced in **Acts 17:11**

showed this attitude. They “***searched the scriptures daily***.” This verse does not tell us how much time they dedicated each day to studying. Nor does the Bible “spell out” exactly how much time meets God’s “minimum requirements” of study. If we hunger and thirst for God’s Word though, we won’t want to put our Bibles down.

As we study the Bible, we learn both through the Old Testament, which was “***written for our learning***” (**Rom. 15:4**), and the New Testament, which contains the commands, examples, and inferences that apply directly to us today (cf. **Matt. 26:28**; **Col. 2:14**).

Following God’s guidance in the Bible does not come naturally. It takes meekness to let God direct us (**James 1:21**). We must humble ourselves as little children when hearing the Word (**Matt. 18:3-4**).

As we approach the Bible, we must remember that there are questions mankind has that God does not answer. We must be careful not to “fill in the blanks” with our own *opinions* (cf. **Rev. 22:18**).

Yet, we must also recognize that God has revealed all we need to know about why we are here and who we are to be. The most important questions for each of our lives are answered by the Creator through His Word.

God does not speak verbally to us today, but He does communicate through another means: the Bible. May we use it faithfully.

Area Gospel Meetings

Benton Church of Christ:

April 1-5 (with J.R. Bronger)

Ohio Street Church of Christ (in Salem):

April 8-13 (with Jim Deason)

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God's Plan for Saving Man

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| 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

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.” –Colossians 3:12-14

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 G (Throat Cancer)
Mattie (Leukemia)

Daily Bible Reading

April 1 – Joshua 22-24; Luke 3
April 2 – Judges 1-3; Luke 4:1-30
April 3 – Judges 4-6; Luke 4:31-44
April 4 – Judges 7-8; Luke 5:1-16
April 5 – Judges 9-10; Luke 5:17-39
April 6 – Judges 11-12; Luke 6:1-26
April 7 – Judges 13-15; Luke 6:27-49

***“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”
–Proverbs 3:5-6***

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Bible Study: Travis
Worship: Dan H
Evening: John

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Dan D

Cleaning Building

Julzy

Prepare Communion

Julzy

Upcoming Reminders

April 22-27: Gospel Meeting
with Andrew Roberts

April 28: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

June 9: Vacation Bible School

Assignments

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Reading: Mike
Announcements: Dave
Table: Harold
Serve: Steve
Don
Dan H
Joe

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Invitation: Mike

Anniversaries

April 9 – Don and Jeanette
April 9 – David and Janice

Birthdays

April 2 – Don
April 25 – Jessica
April 29 – Emily
April 29 – Jerry S