

April 8, 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
-------------	---------

“Blessed Are the Meek”

by Michael Hickox

At the beginning of His “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus taught “the beatitudes,” in which he described the person who is blessed by God. One characteristic of those blessed by God is meekness. **Matthew 5:5: *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.***

Meekness is often viewed as a weakness by the world. In God’s eyes, it is a strength. Jesus showed meekness (**Matthew 11:29**), and God expects *us* to show meekness to all (**Titus 3:2**).

Meekness involves humility, gentleness, submissiveness, and mildness of temper. This virtue allows God to direct our steps.

One who proudly believes he or she does not need guidance from anyone will not “***receive with meekness the engrafted Word***” (**James 1:21**).

God is our Master, and we must meekly allow Him to steer us in the direction He wants us to go. Submissiveness should be applied to certain earthly relationships (**Romans 13:1; Ephesians 5:21-22; 6:1; 6:5**), but it must be foremost directed toward God.

Those who are meek are often belittled by those of the world (cf. **Numbers 12:3; Amos 2:7**). Because the meek do not “fight back,” they are often seen as “weak.”

Yet, God defends the meek (**Psalms 147:6**), and we should all “***seek meekness***” (**Zephaniah 2:3**) in order to be one who finds favor with God.

Christ-like Character

By Michael Hickox

2 Peter 1:5-8: And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter opened his second epistle by exhorting the Christians to which he wrote to put on Christ-like characteristics. He reminded them that God has promised “**exceeding great and precious promises**” to those who put off worldly sins and become like Jesus (**verses 3-4**).

The traits the Holy Spirit described through Peter are inward qualities of the heart. Inward qualities of the heart are often referred to collectively as one’s character.

Character is important for at least two reasons: (1) God commands us to have a certain character, and (2) our character is often the source of our behaviors. For our conduct to be right, our character must be right. As Jesus said in **Matthew 15:19**, “**out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:**”

Outward unrighteousness is often the result of inward impurity. Addressing the root of sin requires looking at our character.

Christ-like character involves being humble (**Philippians 2:3-8**), full of faith (**Mark 11:22**), compassionate (**Matthew 9:36; Colossians 3:12**), meek (**Matthew 5:5; 11:29**), honest (**Ephesians 4:25**), kind (**Ephesians 4:32**), forgiving (**Ephesians 4:32**), patient (**Galatians 5:22**), steadfast in truth (**1 Corinthians 15:58**), zealous for good works (**Titus 2:14**), and full of other character traits that emulate Jesus (cf. **Romans 12:9-13; Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12-15; Titus 2:2-12**).

As much as anything, having a Christ-like character means loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving others as ourselves (**Matthew 22:37-39**). This will lead us to make sacrifices in order to please God and benefit others.

This kind of character is not developed overnight. Though it may seem like we will never reach Christ’s level, we must “**[give] all diligence**” to be like Him (**2 Peter 1:5**).

This requires feeding our souls with God’s Word (**1 Peter 2:2**), praying for God’s help (cf. **Philippians 1:9-11**), examining ourselves (**2 Corinthians 13:5**), and allowing God to “mold” us according to His will (**Romans 12:1-2**).

In order to walk in Jesus’ steps, we must do as He did, but we must also *be* like Him. We must focus not only on the outward actions that God commands, but on the inward traits that are needed in order to truly be *Christ-like*.

Area Gospel Meetings

Ohio Street Church of Christ (in Salem):

April 8-13 (with Jim Deason)

Elm Grove Church of Christ:

April 29 - May 4 (with Mike Davis)

*Our Gospel meeting will be **April 22-27**
with Andrew Roberts*

+++++

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

+++++

Words to Consider

“Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there for a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”—James 4:13-14

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 8 – Judges 16-18; Luke 7:1-30
 April 9 – Judges 19-21; Luke 7:31-50
 April 10 – Ruth 1-4; Luke 8:1-25
 April 11 – 1 Samuel 1-3; Luke 8:26-56
 April 12 – 1 Samuel 4-6; Luke 9:1-17
 April 13 – 1 Samuel 7-9; Luke 9:18-36
 April 14 – 1 Samuel 10-12; Luke 9:37-62

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”—1 Corinthians 1:18

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: John

Evening: Darrell

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Harold

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 15, 2018

Reading: Don

Announcements: Mike

Table: Mark

Serve: Harold

Travis

Darrell

Dan D

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

April 9 – Don and Jeanette

April 9 – David and Janice

Birthdays

April 25 – Jessica

April 29 – Emily

April 29 – Jerry S