

May 13, 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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Visitors are welcome
We offer Bible classes for all ages
We also offer in-home Bible studies

God's Grace and Mankind's Responsibility

Consider two important teachings of Scripture:

God's grace - **Ephesians 2:8-9: *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

And mankind's responsibilities -
2 Cor. 5:10: *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Now consider an illustration if you will. Suppose a young boy has failed a class. His teacher laid out requirements for passing, and he did not meet those requirements. He has *earned* a failing grade in this class.

Yet, suppose his teacher offers him the chance to pass. The teacher owes him nothing but decides to offer this for his benefit. The boy is told that in order to pass he must re-take his final test of the year and get each of the questions right. Otherwise, the failing grade he has earned will remain intact.

This story is not a like-for-like parallel of God's grace and man's responsibilities, but it illustrates the simple principle that just because something is offered as an unmerited gift does not mean nothing can be required to receive the gift.

God's Grace and Mankind's Responsibilities

(Continued)

The boy would be foolish to boast about his accomplishments in the class, considering that he earned a failing grade. Yet, he would also be foolish to think that because the teacher was graciously offering to pass him, this negated all responsibilities on his end.

This principle applies to God's grace and man's responsibilities. Mankind is foolish if he becomes boastful about his accomplishments in serving God. We have all grossly mistreated God at one point or another, and are thus deserving of eternal condemnation (**Rom. 6:23**). No number of good works can change this. Without God's mercy, we cannot escape the wages of our sins, and without God's grace, we cannot have eternal life through Jesus.

It would *also* be wrong though to think that since salvation is a gift of God, there can be nothing required of us to receive it. If we ignore *our* responsibility out of fear of contradicting **Ephesians 2:8-9**, we will miss what is necessary to receive the very salvation that is described in **Ephesians 2:8-9**.

God's grace and our responsibilities do not oppose one another, but rather work "hand-in-glove." Those who meet the responsibilities God gives us find

favor with Him.

Christians who *fail* to meet our responsibilities can fall from grace (**Gal. 5:4**; cf. **Heb. 12:15**).

Those who stress God's grace day-in and day-out are not "overemphasizing grace." Yet, those who stress mankind's responsibilities are not necessarily contradicting God's grace.

We *are* saved by grace "***through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God***" (**Eph. 2:8**). But we also bear personal responsibility to receive the gift of salvation (**Heb. 5:9**). God wants all to be saved (**1 Tim. 2:3-4**), yet Jesus taught "***wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it***" (**Matt. 7:13-14**).

May we not under-emphasize God's grace *or* man's responsibilities. May we heavily emphasize both, recognizing that God's grace gives us hope, but we are each responsible for working "***out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling***" (**Phil. 2:12**).

-Michael Hickox

Area Gospel Meetings

Robinson Church of Christ:
May 20-25 (with Kirk Wall)

Casey Westside Church of Christ:
May 27-31 (with Andy Brenton)

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

“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.”—Ecclesiastes 5:10

“And [Jesus] said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”—Luke 12:15

Prayer List

Holly
 Barb
 Hickox’s Granddaughter, Lyla (Leukemia)
 Harold (Prostate Cancer)
 Sandy (Foot Injury)
 Betty
 Mabel
 Norma’s Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
 Snyder’s Niece, Tessa (Serving in Jordan)
 Mike H (Prostate Cancer)
 Cheryl (Breast Cancer)
 Norma (Injuries from fall)
 June & Family
 Jerry G (Throat Cancer)
 Mattie (Leukemia)
 Tom (Pancreatic Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

May 13 – 2 Kings 1-3; Luke 24:1-35
 May 14 – 2 Kings 4-6; Luke 24:36-53
 May 15 – 2 Kings 7-9; John 1:1-28
 May 16 – 2 Kings 10-12; John 1:29-51
 May 17 – 2 Kings 13-14; John 2
 May 18 – 2 Kings 15-16; John 3:1-18
 May 19 – 2 Kings 17-18; John 3:19-36

“Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple.”—Psalm 119:129-130

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, May 13, 2018

Bible Study: John
Worship: Michael
Evening: Dan H

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Mark

Cleaning Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Upcoming Reminders

May 26: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

June 9: Vacation Bible School

Anniversaries

May 30 – Larry and Patsy

Birthdays

May 23 – Jeanette

May 26 – David

Assignments

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Reading: Darrell
Announcements: Roger
Table: Mike
Serve: Harold
Travis
Carlyle
Mark

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Invitation: Travis

Graduates

Jessilyn – 8th Grade

Lauren – 8th Grade

Rayne – 8th Grade

Alyssa – 8th Grade

Cole – 8th Grade

Dalton – High School

Craig – Olney Central College

Stephanie – SIUE (Master's)