

May 20, 2018

## Two-Sided Coins

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
Olney, IL 62450  
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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
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Visitors are welcome  
We offer Bible classes for all ages  
We also offer in-home Bible studies

The saying “there are two sides to every coin” applies to many biblical principles. With these principles, we must thoughtfully consider both “sides of the coin” to see the complete picture.

For example, consider the need to be:

#### Patient but Prepared:

**2 Peter 3:9** mentions God’s patience with mankind, which is seen through the fact that the Day of Judgment has not yet come. The very next verse assures though that “***the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.***” Together, these two verses answer the scoffing of **verse 4**.

These verses also imply the need for us to have both *patience* and a *sense of urgency*.

We should have a patient mindset while waiting for Christ (**2 Pet. 3:8**). We must be patient in our circumstances (**2 Thess. 1:4**) and when interacting with others (**Eph. 4:2**).

Yet, patience must not be confused with procrastination. We must prepare for judgment with urgency (**2 Cor. 5:10**), and exhort others to do the same (cf. **Acts 22:16**).

This applies to the growing process of Christians. We cannot expect ourselves or others to be perfectly mature Christians overnight, but at the same time we must exhort urgent repentance when sin is found.

#### Willing to Change but Steadfast

**1 Corinthians 15:58** says we must be “***stedfast, unmoveable...***” What this verse does not say is “resist all change.”

A reading of the remainder of **1 Corinthians** shows that these Christians had many changes to make (**1 Cor. 1:10-11**;

# Two-Sided Coins

(Continued)

5:6-7; 11:17-22; etc.). We must be willing to make corrections as needed.

Having said this, Christians are also to be steadfast. Instead of being easily “**tossed to and fro**” (Eph. 4:14), we must hold fast to the teachings of the Bible. For the Corinthians, this particularly meant not wavering in their hope of the resurrection.

A key to this “two-sided coin” is that we must be seeking to learn and submit to truth, regardless of whether it agrees with our presumptions. Doing so will help us to be both willing to change *and* steadfast.

## Zealous but Cautious

Many of God’s commands focus on what *to* do, while many focus on what *not* to do. If either group of commands is emphasized more than the other, there can be trouble.

Consider the example of teaching. **James 3:1** warns that false teachers will be judged harshly. Yet, **Acts 8:4** presents a positive example of Christians who were teaching.

These two passages have different contexts. Taken together though they demonstrate that teaching others about Jesus is a wonderful thing to zealously pursue, while teaching false doctrine is a dangerous thing to cautiously avoid.

This exemplifies the broader principle that we should be *zealous* for good works (**Tit. 2:14**), yet *cautious* to avoid misdirecting our zeal (**Rom. 10:2**). We must be eager to follow the “do’s,” but cautious to avoid the “do not’s.”

## Evangelistic but Holy

There can be a temptation to “set ourselves apart” from the world by trying to withdraw

from all sinners in the world. Such would be dismissing our God-given responsibilities. God expects us to influence the lost for good, and we can’t do that by avoiding all sinners (**Luke 5:30-32**).

With that said, the Bible warns that having unwarranted contact with evil-doers *can* lead us astray (cf. **Prov. 13:20**). As **1 Corinthians 15:33** says, “**Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.**”

We must influence the lost for good, yet consider who is influencing *us*.

## Peacemaking but Sincere

There are some who generate strife over trivial differences (cf. **Rom. 14:13-19**), and there are others who condone error if it means “keeping everyone happy.”

Jesus did not go to either of these two extremes. He did not seek conflict, but He also did not compromise truth to avoid it.

We must follow Christ’s example and seek peace when possible (**Matt. 5:9**). We should be considerate and reasonable when dealing with differences (cf. **1 Cor. 8:13**).

Yet at the same time we should be sincere. We do not show sincere love by complimenting sin (**Rom. 12:9**).

These examples barely scratch the surface of “two-sided coins.” We must pay attention to both sides of biblical coins.

When we see the complete coin, we realize that God’s commands do not oppose one another, but rather complement and promote one another. We must examine the entire picture to ensure we are following *all* of what God commands.

## Area Gospel Meetings

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

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

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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

***"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross..."—Hebrews 12:1-2***

## 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 20 – 2 Kings 19-21; John 4:1-30  
 May 21 – 2 Kings 22-23; John 4:31-54  
 May 22 – 2 Kings 24-25; John 5:1-24  
 May 23 – 1 Chronicles 1-3; John 5:25-47  
 May 24 – 1 Chronicles 4-6; John 6:1-21  
 May 25 – 1 Chronicles 7-9; John 6:22-44  
 May 26 – 1 Chronicles 10-12; John 6:45-71

***"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, May 20, 2018

Bible Study: Dan D

Worship: Carlyle

Evening: Steve

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mike

### **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 27, 2018

Reading: Dave

Announcements: Don

Table: Larry

Serve: Darrell

Dan H

Roger

Mason

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Invitation: Michael

### **Graduates**

Jessilyn – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Lauren – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Rayne – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Alyssa – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Cole – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Dalton – High School

Craig – Olney Central College

Stephanie – SIUE (Master's)