

June 10, 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

The Commitment of Following Christ

In **Luke 14**, Jesus spoke of the commitment of being His disciple. Using illustrations such as one counting the cost before building a tower (**verses 28-30**), Jesus pointed out the need to “count the cost” of *following Him* (**verses 26-27,33**).

In a society where the extent of being a Christian is seen as “going to church” once or twice a week (and nothing more), now is a crucial time to consider what Jesus taught is the cost, or commitment, of being His disciple.

In **Luke 14:26**, Jesus said, “***If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.***”

Jesus’ point in this verse is not to encourage hatred, but to teach that we must not allow *anyone* to come between us and pleasing God (cf. **Matt. 10:37**).

Being an obedient Christian often involves going against what someone we are close to desires of us. It may involve angering a parent, child, sibling, or close friend. Jesus does not want us to seek conflict *for the sake of conflict* (**Rom. 12:18**), but He desires us to follow Him, regardless of what conflicts may result (cf. **Matt. 10:34-37**). Facing rejection is an unfortunate but real part of following Christ’s footsteps (cf. **2 Tim. 4:16**).

Jesus went on to say in **Luke 14:33**, “***whosoever he be of you that forsaketh***

The Commitment of Following Christ

(Continued)

not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

Jesus' point *here* is not that we must make ourselves miserable while on earth, but that we must not allow *anything* to come between us and pleasing God.

Developing the mindset Jesus is calling for requires us to see Christianity the way it is described in the New Testament.

Romans 12:1 says, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*" This speaks of a *lifestyle* of commitment to God.

When Paul was in prison and uncertain about his future, he said "**For to me live is Christ, but to die is gain**" (Phil. 1:21).

Notice the phrase "**for me to live is Christ.**" Christ was not just a part of Paul's life. He was the *center* of it.

Because of Paul's dedication to the Lord, he was willing to make drastic changes. Imagine how uncomfortable it would have been for him to turn from zealously opposing Christ to zealously working for Christ. Making uncomfortable changes is part of the commitment of following Christ.

Much of what makes changing for Christ difficult is the reaction we receive from others. Friends who we once joined with in sinful activities may think we are strange, and even speak badly of us (1 Pet. 4:4). We must accept this to follow Christ.

Those who follow Christ often face persecution. In fact, Paul told Timothy "**all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution**" (2 Tim. 3:12). The persecutions he faced included being stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19).

In our time and place, persecution may be mental. We might be treated harshly even if we are not *physically* harmed for our stand for truth (cf. Matt 5:44). We might be taken advantage of or hurt financially for doing what is right (cf. Rev. 13:17).

The point of all of this is that following Christ is not just about sacrificing a fishing trip on Sunday morning to assemble with saints. This could be included, but it only "scratches the surface" of the commitment of following Christ.

We must develop the character of Christ (2 Pet. 1:5-8). We must follow God's pattern as spouses, parents, children, employees, and neighbors (Eph. 5:21-6:9). We must study diligently (Acts 17:11), and pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17), among other things.

If *anyone* or *anything* stands in the way of *any part* of God's will for our lives, we must separate ourselves from it. This is the message of **Luke 14:26-33**.

May we all surrender totally to God's will for our lives. May we not allow anything to come between us and submission to His will.

-Michael Hickox

Area Gospel Meetings

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:
June 24-29 (with Boyd Sellers)

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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

“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it.”—Acts 2:22-24

Prayer List

Holly
Barb
Hickox's Granddaughter, Lyla (Leukemia)
Harold (Prostate Cancer)
Sandy (Foot Injury)
Betty
Mabel
Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
Mike H (Prostate Cancer)
Cheryl (Breast Cancer)
Norma (Injuries from fall)
June & Family
Jerry G (Throat Cancer)
Mattie (Leukemia)
Tom (Pancreatic Cancer)
John (Double Pneumonia)

Daily Bible Reading

June 10 – 2 Chron. 21-22; John 14
June 11 – 2 Chron. 23-24; John 15
June 12 – 2 Chron. 25-27; John 16
June 13 – 2 Chron. 28-29; John 17
June 14 – 2 Chron. 30-31; John 18:1-18
June 15 – 2 Chron. 32-33; John 18:19-40
June 16 – 2 Chron. 34-36; John 19:1-22

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;”—Hebrews 1:1-2

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, June 10, 2018

Bible Study: Larry
Worship: John
Evening: Michael

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Dan H

Cleaning Building

Cynde

Prepare Communion

Linda

Upcoming Reminders

June 23: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

August 5-10: Gospel Meeting
with Chuck Bartlett

Assignments

Sunday, June 17, 2018

Reading: Mike
Announcements: Steve
Table: Darrell
Serve: Harold
Travis
Roger
Dan H

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

Birthdays

June 16 – Jenna