

June 17, 2018

Fear of Opposition

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

In **John 9**, Jesus healed a blind man. The man was brought to some Pharisees for questioning, as were his parents. His parents confirmed he was their son, yet said ***“by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself”*** (verse 21).

The parents were fearful to offer any suggestions as to how their son might have been healed ***“because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that He was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, he is of age; ask him”*** (verses 22-23).

They were fearful of fallible (and in this case, wrong) men. Such fear can hinder one from pleasing God.

Men, including religious men, are often wrong. Those who stand for the truth stand opposed not only to the “majority” of mankind (**Jn. 15:19**), but to many who think they are pleasing God (**Matt. 7:21-23**).

Instead of fearing the opposition that comes by standing for truth, we must fear what will come if we *don't* stand for truth.

It is better to be opposed by men in our brief time on earth than to oppose God and be cast away from Him for eternity.

May we, like David, say ***“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”*** (Psalm 27:1).

Attitude of Gratitude

By Michael Hickox

In the letter to the saints at Philippi, Paul spoke of his “**bonds**” in Christ (**Phil. 1:7,13,14,16**), referring to imprisonment. He spoke of uncertainty about his future (**Phil. 1:20**). Yet, through these trials, he spoke of joy, peace, and contentment.

In fact, in the King James Version of the Bible, the words joy, rejoice, and rejoiced are used a combined seventeen times in the short letter to the Philippians.

Paul realized that as an obedient Christian, he had great reason to rejoice.

The **fourth chapter** of the letter teaches about the “**peace of God, which passeth all understanding**” (**verse 7**), and the contentment that must be “**learned**” (**verse 11**).

One key reason for Paul’s joy, peace, and contentment through trials was his “attitude of gratitude.”

He began the letter by expressing his thanks for the Philippians (**Phil. 1:3-5**). He was thankful for the preaching of the Gospel (**Phil. 1:18**). He was joyful to make sacrifices for others (**Phil. 2:17**). He showed appreciation for Timothy (**Phil. 2:22**), Epaphroditus (**Phil. 2:29**), and other “**fellowlabourers**” (**Phil. 4:3**). He prayed to God with trust and gratitude, and encouraged the Philippians to do likewise (**Phil. 4:6**). He thanked the Philippians for their benevolence and generosity (**Phil. 4:14-19**).

Just as Paul urged the Thessalonians to give thanks in all circumstances (**1 Thess. 5:18**), so he exemplified at a time his future was uncertain and his present circumstances were bleak.

Paul’s example of gratitude is one for all to follow. While most grumble and murmur when life does not “go their way” (cf. **Num. 14:1-4**), Paul recognized that even in difficult circumstances, he had much to be thankful for.

His focus on spiritual things caused him to see his circumstances as full of opportunities for serving God and others.

Paul remembered that “**all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God**” (**Rom. 3:23**). The wages of such sin is death (**Rom. 6:23a**). Eternal life is a gift of God (**Rom. 6:23b**), and those who receive it through obedience are blessed far better than we could ever deserve.

The circumstances through which we bring glory to the One who offers this gift may vary. Yet, no matter how “bright” or “dreary” things seem in this life, there are always opportunities to please God. This should make Christians thankful.

Paul’s “attitude of gratitude” was in many ways key to his joy, contentment, and peace. May we strive to have this attitude also, following Paul’s example in an important way in which he followed Christ’s will (**1 Cor. 11:1**).

Area Gospel Meetings

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

Casey Westside Church of Christ:
July 13-15 (with Andy Cantrell)

Yale Church of Christ:
July 16-20 (with John Edwards)

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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

“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”—Matthew 18:3-4

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 17 – Ezra 1-2; John 19:23-42
June 18 – Ezra 3-5; John 20
June 19 – Ezra 6-8; John 21
June 20 – Ezra 9-10; Acts 1
June 21 – Nehemiah 1-3; Acts 2:1-21
June 22 – Nehemiah 4-6; Acts 2:22-47
June 23 – Nehemiah 7-9; Acts 3

***“I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself. Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law. Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of pilgrimage.”
—Psalm 119:52-54***

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, June 17, 2018

Bible Study: Mark
Worship: Dan D
Evening: Carlyle

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Steve

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 24, 2018

Reading: John
Announcements: Roger
Table: Harold
Serve: Darrell
Don
Mark
Mason

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Invitation: Travis

Anniversaries

Birthdays