

July 8, 2018

“Like All the Nations”

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 book of Exodus records God leading the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage and delivering the Old Law to them through Moses. The Law included many specific, detailed commands. An underlying theme at the root of these commands was God’s charge, “***ye shall be holy; for I am holy***” (**Leviticus 11:44**; cf. **Leviticus 11:45; 19:2; 20:7,26**).

The Israelites were to enter a land in which they would be surrounded by nations that did not know God. As a “nation under God,” the Israelites were to be different. They were commanded to be “***an holy nation***” (**Exodus 19:6**). This means they were to be set apart.

Soon after the Israelites entered Canaan, they forgot this responsibility. While the Israelites were generally obedient in the days of Joshua (**Judges 2:7**), the generation after this “***knew not the Lord***” (**verse 10**). They “***forsook the Lord God***” and “***followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger***” (**verse 12**). Instead of being holy, this generation of Israelites “fit in” with the world.

In response to this, God punished the Israelites (**verses 14-15**). Yet, He “***raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them***”

“Like All the Nations”

(Continued)

(verse 16). Several judges were appointed over Israel, until the Israelites decided that having judges was not what seemed right in their eyes.

In **1 Samuel 8**, the Israelites told Samuel, ***“thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations”*** (verse 5).

Samuel pleaded with them to not go down this path, but the Israelites demanded a king. Why? **Verse 20a: *That we also may be like all the nations...***

God’s ***“holy nation”*** today is the church (**1 Peter 2:9**). Instead of being ***“like all the nations,”*** the church is to be ***“a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.”***

Yet, just as many Israelites wanted to be like the people around them, so too do many who are part of Christ’s church.

It can be embarrassing to be different. It can make one wonder if he or she is “odd.” For these reasons or others, many seek to follow God, yet fit in with the world at the same time.

This does not work. If we obey God and feel “out of place” in this world, we should remember that this is how we are supposed to be.

God doesn’t want us to be like the majority. The majority is headed for destruction (**Matthew 7:13**), and fails to

glorify God. There are ***“few”*** who are headed for eternal life (**Matthew 7:14**). If we are in the second group, we will *not* “fit in.” We *will* be viewed as strange. This is how we should be.

This does not mean that to be pleasing to God, we should purposefully stand for the opposite of all that the majority stands for. Choosing hamburger over steak because the majority chooses steak does not make one holy. What *does* make one holy is submitting to God’s will.

Few people the Israelites came in contact with obeyed God. If the Israelites obeyed, their lives would be different.

So it is today. If we choose to obey God, our purpose for living will be different. The things we do with our time will be different. Our character will be different. Our conduct will be different. Our speech will be different. Our thoughts will be different.

For those who are not Christians, may you choose to become one and receive the life Christ offers. For those who are, may we not strive to be ***“like all the nations,”*** but instead let God transform us. The Israelites’ charge to be holy applies to us today: **1 Peter 1:15-16: *But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, ‘Be ye holy; for I am holy.’***

Area Gospel Meetings

Bellair Church of Christ:
July 11-15 (with Greg Sharp)

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

River Ridge church of Christ:
July 14 (Song Service)

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

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:
July 29 - August 3 (with Ken Green)

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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

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."—Mathew 5:6

Prayer List

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

Daily Bible Reading

July 8 – Job 22-24; Acts 11
 July 9 – Job 25-27; Acts 12
 July 10 – Job 28-29; Acts 13:1-25
 July 11 – Job 30-31; Acts 13:26-52
 July 12 – Job 32-33; Acts 14
 July 13 – Job 34-35; Acts 15:1-21
 July 14 – Job 36-37; Acts 15:22-41

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth for ever."—Psalm 111:10

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, July 8, 2018

Bible Study: Dan H

Worship: Larry

Evening: Mike

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Michael

Cleaning Building

Deb

Prepare Communion

Deb

Upcoming Reminders

July 28: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

August 4: Flyer Distribution @ 9:30 a.m.

August 5-10: Gospel Meeting
with Chuck Bartlett

Assignments

Sunday, July 15, 2018

Reading: Steve

Announcements: Travis

Table: Dan H

Serve: Harold

Don

Roger

Darrell

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Invitation: Mike

Anniversaries

July 11 - Ethan and Lindsay

July 16 - Darrell and Sidney

Birthdays

July 8 - Mark

July 12 - Holly

July 12 - Jessilyn

July 13 - Ethan