

August 5, 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

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

## The Word That Builds Us Up

By Michael Hickox

**Romans 10:17: *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.***

The statement in **Romans 10:17** applies both to Christians and those who are not yet Christians. God's Word produces and builds faith.

Jesus, in the "parable of the sower," taught that when good and honest hearts come in contact with the truth of God's Word, good fruit is produced (**Luke 8:15**).

God's Word is the "seed" that makes Christians (**Luke 8:11**), and God's Word is the nourishment by which Christians grow (**Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:14**).

This week, we invite all to come hear lessons from this faith-building Word.

As we hear, may we not be as the hard-hearted, who do not want to admit when change is needed. May we not be as those who hear the Word, but do not put it into practice. May we not be as the procrastinator, who says "someday" I will do what the Lord requires.

May we have the heart to make our lives right with God immediately, recognizing that none of us are guaranteed another day (**James 4:14**), and Jesus' return could come this week (**Matt. 24:36; 2 Pet. 3:10**).

God has given us "***all things that pertain unto life and godliness***" (**2 Pet. 1:3**). May we seek to be godly and thus be granted eternal life by "feeding" upon His Word and putting His will into practice.

# What Matters Most

By Michael Hickox

The Bible contrasts what matters most in life with what does not.

**Matthew 6:25-34** is a passage in which Jesus explains what matters most. His words “**seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you**” (**Matt. 6:33**) do not teach that following Christ brings earthly riches. Rather, the teaching is that if we serve God to the best of our ability, all else will be OK (cf. **Rom. 8:28**).

Contrast this with the reverse mindset of “if everything is good in my life, *then* I will obey God.” This is the *opposite* of what our Lord taught. If we follow Christ, we will see life differently than the world sees it.

Consider the people deemed important by the world. Those who gain riches, fame, power, or prestige are often praised for such “success.” Gaining such things is not necessarily wrong, but what is *really* important is far different from these.

For instance, are we a godly example (**Matt. 5:13-16**)? Do we help those in need (**Luke 10:25-37**)? Is the fruit of the Spirit shown in our character (**Gal. 5:22-23**)? Do we pray ceaselessly (**1 Thess. 5:17**)?

Jesus Himself had little of the things most people consider important. He said in **Luke 9:58**, “**foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head.**” Our culture encourages “self-promotion,” but Jesus said “**whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble**

**himself shall be exalted**” (**Matt. 23:12**). While our society promotes getting “to the top,” Jesus “**came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many**” (**Matt. 20:28-WEB**).

The contrast between what Jesus promoted and what our society considers significant makes one wonder if Jesus would *really* be honored if He walked on earth today, or if He would be treated as “second-class” for being meek and poor.

Just as we must focus on what matters most in our personal lives, we must focus on what matters most in a local church.

Many “church-goers” focus on the quality of church buildings, the entertainment during assembly times, and the numbers that big buildings and entertainment often produce. What matters to God, though, are things like love (**1 Thess. 3:12**), unity (**1 Cor. 1:10**), spiritual growth (**Eph. 4:13-16**), zeal for proclaiming truth (**1 Thess. 1:8**), and soundness of doctrine (cf. **Tit. 2:1**).

Many desire teaching from eloquent speakers who will teach what makes listeners feel good (cf. **2 Tim. 4:3-4**). What matters to God, though, is that the truth is spoken in its simplicity (**1 Cor. 2:4**; **2 Cor. 1:12**) and in love (**Eph. 4:15**), using His Word as our guide (**1 Pet. 4:11**).

These examples contrast what most think is important and what is most important according to God. May we pattern our thinking according to what God says, and not the wisdom of this world.

***Please join us for our Gospel meeting this week. Sunday meeting times are 9:30 a.m. (Bible study), 10:20 a.m. (morning worship), and 2:00 p.m. (afternoon worship). Monday through Friday meeting time is 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.***

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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**

***“As for God, His way is perfect: the Word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him.”—Ps. 18:30***

***“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork.”—Psalm 19:1***

### **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)  
 Rex & Family  
 Perry (Darcy's Father)  
 Patsy  
 Linda & Family  
 Don (Injuries from fall)  
 Brianna

### **Daily Bible Reading**

August 5 – Psalm 51-53; Romans 2  
 August 6 – Psalm 54-56; Romans 3  
 August 7 – Psalm 57-59; Romans 4  
 August 8 – Psalm 60-62; Romans 5  
 August 9 – Psalm 63-65; Romans 6  
 August 10 – Psalm 66-67; Romans 7  
 August 11 – Psalm 68-69; Romans 8:1-21

***“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”—2 Timothy 3:16***

**Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, August 5, 2018

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: John

Evening: Darrell

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Mike

**Cleaning Building**

Julzy

**Prepare Communion**

June / Julzy

**Upcoming Reminders**

August 25: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

**Assignments**

Sunday, August 12, 2018

Reading: Dave

Announcements: Mike

Table: Roger

Serve: Dan D

John

Jim

Dan H

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Invitation: Larry

**Anniversaries**

August 15 - Roger and Debbie

**Birthdays**

August 5 - Julzy

August 10 - Cheryl

August 19 - Paula

August 24 - Debbie

August 25 - Olivia