

August 19, 2018

“Consider Your Ways”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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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

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

Following captivity, some Jews returned to Jerusalem. They were expected to rebuild the temple. Rather than making this their priority, they put worldly pursuits above all (cf. **Hag. 1:4,6**). They suffered for this, and God exhorted, “**Consider your ways**” (**Hag. 1:5,7**).

The phrase “**consider your ways**” prompts reflection and self-examination (cf. **2 Cor. 13:5**). Considering our ways is something we should do frequently.

While many approach self-examination fearful of finding something that needs to be fixed, we should actually be *eager* to find things that need corrected. Instead of being scared to discover sin, we should be scared *not* to find sin when it exists. We should be *eager* to improve.

Considering our ways is not about comparing ourselves to others, but to the standard of God’s will.

Much of the temptation for pride may stem from man’s tendency to look at how we “measure up” to others. This is a bad method of self-reflection (cf. **Luke 18:11**).

Instead of such an attitude, strong Christians are often the first individuals to acknowledge their need for growth. We should dig into the Word seeking to grow and improve (cf. **Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 2:2**).

May we consider our ways and examine ourselves constantly to find things we can do to better please God.

Murmuring

By Michael Hickox

Jude 16a: *These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts...*

Jude 15 references the ungodly who God will execute judgment upon. When ungodly individuals are described in the Bible, words such as selfish, proud, worldly, covetous, and dishonest are often used.

A word which may not be as frequently spoken against is used in **Jude 16** to describe the ungodly: murmurers.

Murmuring is often descriptive of unfaithful individuals. The first generation of Israelites to exit Egypt *murmured* against Moses and God when their desires were not met (**Ex. 16:7-8; Num. 14:27,36**). The inspired apostle Paul warned the church at Corinth not to *murmur* as these Israelites did (**1 Cor. 10:10**). Paul told the church at Philippi to “***Do all things without murmurings and disputings:***” (**Phil. 2:14**). A consistent mark of the Jews rebuked by Jesus was *murmuring* against Him (**Luke 15:2; 19:7; John 6:41**). What is this murmuring, and why is it wrong?

In **Jude 16**, “murmurers” refers to “one who complains” (*Strong - G1113*). This isn’t complaining to encourage correction, but grumbling in discontentment. A murmurer’s life is characterized by constant grumbling.

Digging into the murmuring that marked the “exodus” generation of Israelites helps us understand why it can be destructive.

At the beginning of the book of Exodus, the Israelites had been in Egyptian

bondage for about 400 years (**Acts 7:6**). As they were being oppressed, “***God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob***” (**Ex. 2:24**).

God showed His faithfulness to that covenant by leading the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. As the Israelites started their exodus from Egypt, God showed them additional evidence that He was with them (**Ex. 13:21-22; 14:19-30**). Despite this, the Israelites time and again distrusted God and murmured (**Ex. 15:24; 16:2; 17:3; Num. 14:2,29**).

The murmuring of the Israelites was caused by discontentment, selfishness, lack of faith, and shortsightedness.

These same problems cause murmuring today. An “attitude of gratitude” produces joy rather than murmuring (**Phil. 4:4**).

This isn’t to say that disappointments are never going to come (cf. **Rom. 12:15**), or that “negative” topics should never be discussed. The inspired apostles spoke of the ugliness of sin (cf. **2 Pet. 2:1-6**). The purpose of such teaching, though, was to warn against sin’s consequences (**verse 6**).

The murmuring condemned by God is different. It serves no good purpose.

The Israelites fell into the trap of murmuring by forgetting God’s promises (**Ex. 6:6-8**). Their lack of faith led them to grumble instead of praising God.

May we learn from this example, and “***Do all things without murmurings.***”

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

“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.”—Ps. 84:10-12

“I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore...But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”—Psalm 86:12,15

Prayer List

Holly
Barb
Harold (Prostate Cancer)
Sandy (Foot Injury)
Betty
Mabel
Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
Cheryl (Breast Cancer)
Norma (Injuries from fall)
Jerry (Throat Cancer)
Mattie (Leukemia)
Tom (Pancreatic Cancer)
Patsy
Linda & Family
Caleb & Darcy & Family
Rick & Carlotta & Family
Dody
Louise E. & Family

Daily Bible Reading

August 19 – Psalm 87-88; Romans 13
August 20 – Psalm 89-90; Romans 14
August 21 – Psalm 91-93; Romans 15:1-13
August 22 – Psalm 94-96; Romans 15:14-33
August 23 – Psalm 97-99; Romans 16
August 24 – Psalm 100-102; 1 Corinthians 1
August 25 – Psalm 103-104; 1 Corinthians 2

“For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.”—Proverbs 2:6-7

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, August 19, 2018

Bible Study: Dan D

Worship: Mark

Evening: Carlyle

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

Jim

Cleaning Building

Julzy

Prepare Communion

June / Julzy

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Dave

Table: Steve

Serve: Mark

Mason

Dan H

Roger

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

September 3 - Dan and Lovetta

Birthdays

August 19 - Paula

August 24 - Debbie

August 25 - Olivia

August 31 - Stephanie

September 2 - Dan H