

August 26, 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.

“Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”

By Michael Hickox

Matthew’s record of Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount” begins with the statement “***Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven***” (Matthew 5:3). Like each of the “beatitudes,” this statement shows the stark contrast between those who seem blessed in the eyes of the world and those who truly are blessed according to God.

The word translated “poor” in **Matthew 5:3** can mean “*destitute of wealth, influence, position, honors; lowly, afflicted,*” or “*helpless, powerless to accomplish an end*” (see *Thayer & Strong-G4434*). When we consider these definitions, it helps us see that the one who is poor in spirit recognizes his or her *hopelessness* without God.

Those who are truly blessed do not claim to be spiritually “independent” or “self-sufficient,” but claim the very opposite of this. Those who are poor in spirit realize we are dependent on God. Without God, we are doomed for eternal destruction.

The tax collector of **Luke 18:10-14** recognized this. Unlike the Pharisee who boasted about how great he was and treated God as though God were fortunate to have him, the tax collector

“Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”

(Continued)

“would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner” (verse 13). While the Pharisee thought he was high and mighty, the tax collector recognized he was poor and lowly. He knew that it was only through God’s mercy that he could be forgiven of his sin, and receive salvation.

The Bible is full of examples of men who had a heart more like that of the Pharisee, and were proven foolish for such an attitude.

When Moses was sent by God to tell Pharaoh to release Israel from bondage, Pharaoh responded *“Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go”* (Exodus 5:2). Pharaoh thought he was powerful, and may have seemed so in the eyes of the people. He was proven a fool by God though when the ten plagues came upon Egypt.

Pharaoh’s pride led to his downfall, while the meekest man on earth led the Israelites out of bondage (cf. Numbers 12:3). Such “turning of the

tables” is common in the Bible. God repeatedly humbles those who exalt themselves and exalts those who humble themselves.

Those added by God to His kingdom are not the “high and mighty” Pharaoh’s, but those who, like David, cry out *“Bow down thine ear, O Lord, hear me: for I am poor and needy”* (Psalm 86:1).

David recognized that we are undeserving of anything better than eternal destruction because of how we have treated God. None of us would exist, or have anything we need to survive without the allowance of God. Those too proud to acknowledge our dependence on Him will be brought low on the Day of Judgment.

The poor in spirit acknowledge their helplessness without God, and give Him all glory.

Truly, the poor in spirit are far more blessed than the wealthiest, healthiest, most prestigious, most liked, most famous individuals on earth, for Jesus said of the poor in spirit, *“theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

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

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”—Proverbs 16:18-19

“Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.”—Prov. 23:31-32

“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.”—Proverbs 25:28

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)
Linda & Family
Caleb & Darcy & Family
Rick & Carlotta & Family
Dody
Louise & Family
Joe (Lung Cancer)
Allen S. (Cancer)
Raymond

Daily Bible Reading

August 26 – Psalm 105-106; 1 Cor. 3
August 27 – Psalm 107-109; 1 Cor. 4
August 28 – Psalm 110-112; 1 Cor. 5
August 29 – Psalm 113-115; 1 Cor. 6
August 30 – Psalm 116-118; 1 Cor. 7:1-19
August 31 – Psalm 119:1-88; 1 Cor. 7:20-40
September 1 – Psalm 119:89-176; 1 Cor. 8

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”—Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Bible Study: Travis

Worship: Joe

Evening: Don

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Travis

Cleaning Building

Julzy

Prepare Communion

June / Julzy

Upcoming Reminders

Sep. 22: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Reading: Don

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Darrell

Serve: Steve

Carlyle

Dave

Joe

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

September 3 - Dan and Lovetta

Birthdays

August 31 - Stephanie

September 2 - Dan H