

October 7, 2018

Home of the Soul

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

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

The word “soul” can have different meanings in Scripture. One way it is used is to describe the part of us that exists in conjunction with our physical body. It is the part of us that will continue on for eternity.

If physical death comes before Christ’s return, our soul will go to Hades. This realm is described in **Luke 16:19-31**.

In Hades, there are some in “**torments**” (**Luke 16:23,28**). The “**rich man**” in **Luke 16** was here. He was in so much pain that he asked for Lazarus to “**dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool [his] tongue**” (**verse 24**).

There are others, like Lazarus, who are in a place described as “**Abraham’s bosom**” (**verse 22**). This place is called “**paradise**” by Jesus in **Luke 23:43**. Paradise is a place where souls are “**comforted**” (**Luke 16:25**). What determines whether one’s soul is in paradise or torment is whether one obeys God while on earth (see **verses 27-31**).

Like our physical bodies, Hades is a *temporary* home for the soul. On the Day of Judgment, “**all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation**” (**John 5:28b-29**).

Home of the Soul

(Continued)

This resurrection is the point at which our souls will be sent to an eternal home. All who have ever lived will stand before the Lord to be judged according to our deeds (**2 Cor. 5:10**). At this point, Christ will send the unrighteous “**away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal**” (**Matt. 25:46**).

Notice that Jesus stated that the unrighteous will face “**everlasting punishment.**” The Greek word for this place of eternal torment is “geenna” (*Strong G1067*). Eleven of the twelve times this word is used, it is used by Jesus. He described hell as a place of “**everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels**” (**Matt. 25:41**). It is a place of “**outer darkness**” where “**there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**” (**Matt. 8:12**), and “**the fire that never shall be quenched**” (**Mark 9:43**).

We may wonder why our Lord spoke so much of hell. Perhaps the reason is that He loves us and wants us to be warned.

Instead of taking the path that leads to hell, Christ desires us to do the will of the Father, and thus be with Him in heaven for eternity (cf. **Matt. 7:21**).

Heaven is a *real* place where God resides (cf. **Matt. 6:9; 7:21b**). It is where Jesus ascended back to (**Luke 24:51**).

Heaven is a place where souls will be in the eternal presence of God. The “**new Jerusalem**” of **Revelation 21** is a place where there is “**no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof**” (**Rev. 21:23**). It is a “**holy city**” (verse 2) where “**there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain**” (verse 4).

While nothing good is said about hell, nothing bad is said about heaven. Heaven is a place where the redeemed of all ages will be together forever.

Reflecting on these different possible “homes” of the soul causes one to understand that there is much more to our existence than our time on earth. Our life on earth is “**even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away**” (**Jas. 4:14**). We must therefore use the time we have on earth to prepare for what comes next.

Christ’s return could come at any moment (**2 Pet. 3:10**). We must be ready at all times (**Matt. 24:42**).

During our brief time on earth, may we live in such a way that we will be comforted, with the righteous of all ages, when our souls depart.

Area Gospel Meetings

Mattoon Southside Church of Christ:
Oct. 15 - Oct. 21 (with John Gentry)
M-Sat: 7:00; Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 6:00

Elm Grove Church of Christ:
Oct. 28 - Nov. 2 (with Wayne Walker)
Sun: 10:30, 3:30; M-F: 7:00

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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

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.”—1 Thessalonians 4:14

Prayer List

Holly G
 Barb A
 Harold B (Prostate Cancer)
 Sandy S (Foot Injury)
 Betty P
 Mabel H
 Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
 Cheryl S (Breast Cancer)
 Norma C (Injuries from fall)
 Jerry G (Throat Cancer)
 Mattie B (Leukemia)
 Tom B (Pancreatic Cancer)
 Linda & Family
 Dody G
 Joe B (Lung Cancer)
 Allen S (Cancer)
 Jeanette & Family

Daily Bible Reading

Oct. 7 – Isaiah 11-13; Ephesians 4
 Oct. 8 – Isaiah 14-16; Ephesians 5:1-16
 Oct. 9 – Isaiah 17-19; Ephesians 5:17-33
 Oct. 10 – Isaiah 20-22; Ephesians 6
 Oct. 11 – Isaiah 23-25; Philippians 1
 Oct. 12 – Isaiah 26-27; Philippians 2
 Oct. 13 – Isaiah 28-29; Philippians 3

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”—Psalm 119:105

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, October 7, 2018

Bible Study: Dave

Worship: Harold

Evening: Roger

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Dan H

Cleaning Building

Cynde

Prepare Communion

Donna

Upcoming Reminders

Oct. 27: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, October 14, 2018

Reading: Harold

Announcements: Mike

Table: Larry

Serve: Dan D

John

Jim

Steve

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Invitation: Larry

Anniversaries

October 11 - Mike & Paula

October 27 - Carlyle & Donna

Birthdays

October 20 - Alita

October 21 - Dave

October 22 - Janice

October 23 - Craig

October 29 - Morgan