

October 14, 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 |
|-------------|---------|

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.

## Responding to Immorality

By Michael Hickox

Immorality has been in the world for centuries.

Noah lived amidst immorality (**Gen. 6:5**). Jeremiah and other prophets were surrounded by immorality (**Jer. 3:6-11**). Christians are likewise surrounded by immorality today.

God will one day put an end to the world's immorality, but until then, He has given Christians guidance as to how we should respond to it.

**Stand for the Truth:** The Holy Spirit through Paul admonished the Ephesians to "***be strong in the Lord***" (**Eph. 6:10**), putting on the "***whole armor of God***" (**verse 11**), "***having girded your loins with truth***" (**verse 14**). To withstand Satan and the immorality he produces, we must stand steadfastly with Christ.

This includes calling sin what it is, as John the Baptizer did when Herod the tetrarch was committing adultery with his brother Phillip's wife (**Matt. 14:3**). **Verse 4: ...John said unto [Herod], "It is not lawful for thee to have her."** John had the courage to stand against immorality, even though he knew there was a chance the truth would not be received well. We must have this same zeal for the truth.

# Responding to Immorality

(Continued)

**Speak in Love:** Like John, Jesus took a stand against immorality. But the stand He took was never out of bitterness. It was always out of love for the soul(s) of the person(s) who needed to repent. Jesus spoke the right things for the right *reasons*.

As Jesus looked at the multitudes in **Matthew 9:36**, “***He was moved with compassion for them, because they were distressed and scattered, as sheep not having a shepherd.***” Jesus hates immorality but loves those who are living in immorality, and wants them to be led to repentance and salvation (cf. **Luke 19:10**).

Jesus could have spoken against immorality with arrogance, given that He Himself never engaged in any of the sin that He opposed. Yet, He approached immorality with humility and compassion (cf. **John 8:3-11**).

We must, like Christ, speak the truth *in love* (**Eph. 4:15**).

**Shine Bright:** While Christians’ speech must reflect truth, so too must our actions. We must “practice what we preach.”

The Bible speaks of God-fearing people who preached sermons through their actions. Consider the impact Ruth

had on other women through her love for Naomi (**Ruth 4:14-15**), or the impact Jesus had on Pilate through His silence when He was questioned (**Matt. 27:14**).

We can have an enormous influence on others by being the people God desires. If we are full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control, people will notice. If we give up things that the world deems important in order to pursue what *God* says is important, people will notice.

But if we live like the world, people will notice. To help others escape immorality, we must *ourselves* be free of immorality.

**Pray:** The power of proper prayer cannot be overstated. Prayer can help Christians throughout the world oppose sin without being severely persecuted (**1 Tim. 2:2**). Prayer can help us endure hardships we face. Prayer can help doors be opened for opportunities to lead people out of sin (**Col. 4:3-4**).

While immorality will not go away as long as the earth is here, neither will the truth. Let us not be overcome by the darkness of immorality, but overcome darkness with the light of Christ and His Word.

## 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*

River Ridge Church of Christ:  
Oct. 21 - Oct. 26 (with Stephen Russell)  
*Sun: 9:00, 10:00, 4:00; M-F: 7:00*

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

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 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

***"He whose spirit is without restraint is like a city that is broken down and without walls."***—Proverbs 25:28

## 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. 14 – Isaiah 30-31; Philippians 4  
Oct. 15 – Isaiah 32-33; Colossians 1  
Oct. 16 – Isaiah 34-36; Colossians 2  
Oct. 17 – Isaiah 37-38; Colossians 3  
Oct. 18 – Isaiah 39-40; Colossians 4  
Oct. 19 – Isaiah 41-42; 1 Thessalonians 1  
Oct. 20 – Isaiah 43-44; 1 Thessalonians 2

***"Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls."***—James 1:21

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, October 14, 2018

Bible Study: Darrell

Worship: Larry

Evening: Michael

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Carlyle

### **Assignments**

Sunday, October 21, 2018

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Steve

Table: Mike

Serve: Roger

Harold

Mark

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

Invitation: Dave

### **Cleaning Building**

Cynde

### **Prepare Communion**

Donna

### **Upcoming Reminders**

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

### **Anniversaries**

October 27 - Carlyle & Donna

### **Birthdays**

October 20 - Alita

October 21 - Dave

October 22 - Janice

October 23 - Craig

October 29 - Morgan