

November 11, 2018

The Cross of Christ

By Michael Hickox

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.

Mankind's greatest problem is sin. All who have reached the age and ability to distinguish right from wrong have sinned (**Rom. 3:23**). The wages of sin is eternal condemnation (**Rom. 6:23a**).

No matter how many good deeds we do, good deeds *alone* cannot atone for sin. *Alone*, we are hopeless.

Yet, God planned a means by which hopeless sinners doomed for eternal death can become joyful saints granted eternal life (**Rom. 6:23b**).

This plan of redemption centers on His Son. Though Jesus Christ is deity, He took upon Himself "***the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross***" (Phil. 2:7-8).

As a man, Jesus "***was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin***" (**Heb. 4:15**). He was then offered as a sacrifice on the cross, so our sins could be atoned for (**1 Pet. 1:19**). At the cross, Jesus followed through with this part of God's plan of salvation.

It is significant that Jesus *willingly* went to the cross. He could have called twelve legions of angels to prevent His death (**Matt. 26:53**). Instead, Jesus *chose* to give His life for mankind (**Heb. 12:2**).

The Cross of Christ

(Continued)

Because He chose to go to the cross, it is now possible for *us* to be redeemed from the bondage of sin (**Eph. 1:7**), and to be reconciled to God (**Rom. 5:10**). Because of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, it is possible for us to spend eternity in heaven instead of spending eternity in hell.

When we understand the significance of the cross of Christ, it leaves no room for arrogance. We have no reason to boast except in Christ's death (**Gal. 6:14**).

This does not mean the blood of Christ nullifies *our* responsibilities in receiving salvation. God's grace is a gift, but He extends this gift to those who come to Him on *His* terms.

God has determined that for the blood of Christ to redeem us, we must trust and obey God. The blood of Christ was shed "**for the remission of sins**" (**Matt. 26:28**). Obedience to Christ's will is also "**for the remission of sins**" (**Acts 2:38**). In other words, for us to access the benefits of Christ's blood, we must faithfully *obey* Him (**Phil. 2:12**).

After Christ's death, He was raised, and commissioned His apostles to tell the world about Him (**Mark 16:15-16**). Their message was to center on Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and how mankind must respond.

The apostles obeyed and taught Christ's doctrine. Christ sent them the "**Spirit of truth**" to ensure this was so (**John 16:13**). God confirmed the apostle's "**word with signs following**" (**Mark 16:20**).

What the apostles taught by inspiration is that man is lost without Christ, and that for one to be saved, he or she must "**Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**" (**Acts 2:38**).

The message of salvation has not changed. The benefits Christ made possible through His death are reaped by those who respond to the message of Christ with belief and confession of who He is, repentance (turning from sin to obedience), and baptism in the name of Christ "**for the remission of sins**." This is God's pattern for getting "**into Jesus Christ**" (**Rom. 6:3**; cf. **Gal. 3:27**).

After one becomes a Christian, the sacrifice of Christ should motivate us to love God as He did (**1 John 4:19**; **5:3**). If we submit to His will, the blood Jesus shed on the cross will cleanse us from all sin (see **1 John 1:7**).

May we appreciate the cross of Christ. May we recognize both what *He* did, and what *we* must do to be saved.

Area Gospel Meetings

Casey Westside church of Christ:
Nov. 11 - Nov. 16 (with David Eldridge)
Sun: 9:30, 10:20, 6:00; 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

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in Jehovah, and whose trust Jehovah is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, that spreadeth out its roots by the river, and shall not fear when heat cometh, but its leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”—Jer. 17:7-8

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
Raymond B

Daily Bible Reading

Nov. 11 – Jeremiah 34-36; Hebrews 2
Nov. 12 – Jeremiah 37-39; Hebrews 3
Nov. 13 – Jeremiah 40-42; Hebrews 4
Nov. 14 – Jeremiah 43-45; Hebrews 5
Nov. 15 – Jeremiah 46-47; Hebrews 6
Nov. 16 – Jeremiah 48-49; Hebrews 7
Nov. 17 – Jeremiah 50; Hebrews 8

“The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.”—Psalm 119:130

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, November 11, 2018

Bible Study: Dan H

Worship: Darrell

Evening: Larry

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Michael

Cleaning Building

Paula

Prepare Communion

Jessica

Upcoming Reminders

Nov. 24: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, November 18, 2018

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Travis

Table: Harold

Serve: Roger

John

Dan H

Mark

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

Invitation: Larry

Anniversaries

November 20 - Mike & Rowena

Birthdays

November 13 - Misty

November 20 - Patsy

November 21 - Tretyn

November 25 - Mason

November 27 - Roger