

December 9, 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.

## “Casting All Your Anxiety Upon Him”

**1 Peter 5:6-7:** *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time; casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He careth for you.*

**1 Peter 5:7** gives instruction to Christians that is similar to **Philippians 4:6:** *In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

These passages demonstrate that God not only *offers* us the opportunity to ask for His help, He *wants* us to *use* this opportunity, especially when faced with anxieties of life (see also **Luke 18:1-8**).

As **Philippians 4:7** points out, when prayer is made with a heart that trusts God, the result is a peace that **“surpasses all understanding.”**

As the hymn *Did You Think to Pray?* says, *“O how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day; So when life seems dark and dreary, Don’t forget to pray.”* As the hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* says, *“O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.”*

If we trust God and believe in His power, we should cast our anxieties on Him, knowing that He cares for us.

**-Michael Hickox**

# Chief of Sinners

By Michael Hickox

**Matthew 9:9-13: As Jesus passed by from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax collection office. He said to him, "Follow me." He got up and followed Him. As He sat in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick do. But you go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' for I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."**

When Jesus was on earth, He spent time with people viewed as "extra-sinful" in the eyes of the religious leaders of His day. Such demonstrates a principal seen throughout Scripture: Christ desires even the "chiefest" of sinners to be led to salvation.

The apostle Paul's life provides a good example of this. After zealously opposing Christ, Paul turned his life around and was forgiven by God. Consider his words to Timothy in **1 Timothy 1:15: *Christ Jesus came into the world to save***

***sinners; of whom I am chief.***

All who have reached the "age of accountability" have sinned against God (**Rom. 3:23**). Yet, God desires all to be forgiven and saved by submitting to Him (**1 Tim. 2:3-4**).

We should thus not think we can never be "good enough" to be a part of Christ's kingdom.

As long as one is on earth, he or she can *choose* to obey God and be forgiven by Him. The apostle Paul is one among many who have done this and gone on to do great things for God.

The potential to be saved hinges on the potential each of us has to change as God requires. Many people do not change as God desires, but some do, and everyone can.

God hates sin, but loves sinners, and desires all people to come to repentance (**2 Pet. 3:9**).

For those lost in sin, obeying Jesus is the answer. For those who are saved, may we share sin's cure with those who are not.

May we not excuse ourselves from serving God out of fear we could never be "good enough," but simply submit to His commandments and accept the salvation He offers.

## 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 we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, ‘This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”*** –2 Peter 1:16-18

## 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  
Lovetta D (Knee Replacement)

## Daily Bible Reading

Dec. 2 – Ezekiel 45-46; 1 John 2  
Dec. 3 – Ezekiel 47-48; 1 John 3  
Dec. 4 – Daniel 1-2; 1 John 4  
Dec. 5 – Daniel 3-4; 1 John 5  
Dec. 6 – Daniel 5-7; 2 John  
Dec. 7 – Daniel 8-10; 3 John  
Dec. 8 – Daniel 11-12; Jude

***“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword...”*** –Hebrews 4:12

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Bible Study: Larry

Worship: Dan H

Evening: Harold

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Darrell

### **Cleaning Building**

Paula

### **Prepare Communion**

Paula

### **Upcoming Reminders**

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

### **Assignments**

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Reading: Harold

Announcements: Steve

Table: Mike

Serve: Mason

John

Dan H

Mark

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Invitation: Larry

### **Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

December 13 - Donna B

December 21 - Linda

December 21 - Christie

December 22 - Jailyn

December 22 - Lauren

December 23 - Joe