

December 30, 2018

## Resolve to Please God

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
Olney, IL 62450  
217-218-0803  
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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 |
|-------------|---------|

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.

At the start of a new year, it is common for individuals to make resolutions. At this and all times of the year, the Bible teaches certain things we should each resolve to do that are of great significance. Consider a few “resolutions” we can make at *any* time during our lives on earth that are in line with what God commands of us in His Word:

Put First Things First: One thing we should always determine to do is to “put first things first” in life. Notice what **Ecclesiastes 12:13** says in relation to this: ***This is the end of the matter. All has been heard. Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.***

There is nothing more significant in our lives than submitting to what God commands of us. One who is not a Christian should thus resolve to get “**into Christ**” as God commands, through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism (**Gal. 3:27**; cf. **Acts 2:38** and **8:36-38**).

Those who *are* New Testament Christians should determine to prioritize rightly. Recognizing that we belong to God (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**), we should resolve to let Him direct us as He pleases.

Pray Fervently: A specific way God wants His children to obey Him is through fervent prayer. The inspired apostle Paul

## Resolve to Please God

(Continued)

commands, ***"In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"*** (Phil. 4:6). If we do this, we are told, ***"the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus"*** (verse 7).

God not only *allows* us to go to Him in prayer with problems we face...He *wants* us to do this. Notice **1 Peter 5:7: *casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He careth for you.***

Prayer is an expression of our dependence on, and faith in, God. When it is done properly, it has tremendous power (**Jas. 5:16**).

We should recognize the value of prayer, have gratitude that leads us to thank God through prayer (**1 Thes. 5:18**), and earnestly cast our cares on God while asking for His help in our own lives and the lives of others (**1 Tim. 2:1-2**).

Study Diligently: We should also resolve to diligently study God's Word. In **1 Peter 2:2**, the apostle Peter commanded the Christians he wrote to, ***"as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby."***

We should determine to be like the noble Bereans described in **Acts 17:11** who ***"received the Word with all readiness of the mind, examining the***

***Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*** The Bereans' behavior emphasizes not only a hunger and thirst for the Word, but also a thoughtful consideration of things taught as doctrine, with a sincere desire to know if such things are from God.

We should all have a longing to know the truth, and to *apply* that knowledge as needed in our lives (**Jas. 1:22**).

Build Character: Another specific way God desires His children to serve Him is by developing the character He desires. At all times throughout the year, we should strive to be growing in character to better please God.

Consider, for instance, God's command to ***"put on...a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering"*** (Col. 3:12). We are also commanded ***"add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity"*** (2 Pet. 1:5-7). It is evident that God expects us to grow in character.

Resolving to follow these and other instructions from God's Word will be profitable not just for a year, but for eternity. May we be resolved to please God by obeying what He commands us.

## 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 I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” –Romans 1:16-17***

***“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you.”***

**–1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

## 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)  
Mike D (Broken Neck)

## Daily Bible Reading

Dec. 30 – Habakkuk; Revelation 15  
Dec. 31 – Zephaniah; Revelation 16  
Jan. 1 – Haggai; Revelation 17  
Jan. 2 – Zechariah 1-4; Revelation 18  
Jan. 3 – Zechariah 5-9; Revelation 19  
Jan. 4 – Zechariah 10-14; Revelation 20  
Jan. 5 – Malachi; Revelation 21-22

***“Simon Peter answered [Jesus], ‘Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.’ –John 6:68***

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Bible Study: Mark

Worship: Larry

Evening: Dan H

Wednesday, January 2, 2018

John

### **Cleaning Building**

Paula (Dec.) / Deb (Jan.)

### **Prepare Communion**

Paula (Dec.) / Deb (Jan.)

### **Upcoming Reminders**

Jan. 26: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

### **Assignments**

Sunday, January 6, 2018

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Roger

Table: Steve

Serve: Darrell

Carlyle

Dan D

Mark

Wednesday, January 9, 2018

Invitation: Mike

### **Anniversaries**

January 1 - Jerry & Sandy

January 3 - Dave & Donna

### **Birthdays**

January 9 - Maxine

January 9 - Douglas

January 10 - Cynde

January 15 - Mike

January 17 - Raymond