

January 6, 2019

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.

Living Righteously Amid Unrighteousness

Genesis 18 tells of God's judgment against the city of Sodom. God decided He would destroy the city for its wickedness. However, Abraham pleaded with God to spare Sodom for the sake of the righteous within the city. God agreed to spare Sodom if He found ten righteous souls within (**verse 32**).

In **Genesis 19**, Abraham "***looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and looked, and saw that the smoke of the land went up as the smoke of a furnace***" (**verse 28**). God had evidently not found even ten righteous individuals in the city.

Yet, notice something about Abraham's nephew Lot (who dwelt in Sodom at the time) that is brought out in the description of God's judgment against Sodom in **2 Peter 2:6-8: *and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was very distressed by the lustful life of the wicked (for that righteous man dwelling among them, was tormented in his righteous soul from day to day with seeing and hearing lawless deeds)***:

Though **Genesis** does not give a lot of details about Lot's righteousness, it is clear from **2 Peter 2** that he was a righteous man in the midst of unrighteousness.

Living Righteously Amid Unrighteousness (Continued)

This pattern is seen throughout the Bible. God's servants are often surrounded by unrighteousness. God's faithful children often behave very differently from those around them.

This is not surprising when we consider what Jesus taught in **Matthew 7:13-14**: ***Enter in by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter in by it. How narrow is the gate, and restricted is the way that leads to life! Few are those who find it.***

To be among the righteous few, we must take the strait and narrow path. We must not strive to be like the ungodly around us, as the Israelites of Samuel's day did (**1 Sam. 8:5,19-20**). God's people are to be set apart from the sinfulness of the world (cf. **1 Pet. 2:9**; **2 Cor. 6:17**).

This does not mean we must *avoid* the world, but rather we must allow God to rule our lives and thereby shape our character and conduct.

We must change our thinking to see good for what *God* says is good and evil for what *God* says is evil (**Rom. 12:9**).

May we be ***"blameless and harmless, children of God without defect in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you are seen as lights in the world,"*** (**Phil. 2:15**). May we live righteously amid unrighteousness.

-Michael Hickox

MDH Note: Brother Roger requested that the info below be passed on. It's a follow up to his sermon preached last Sunday afternoon.

What I meant to say last Sunday afternoon about Felix, Festus and Pilate didn't come out right. So please allow me to try again.

Paul had been arrested in Jerusalem (Acts 21:11-15, 27-40). Acts 22 contains his speech to the angry crowd of Jews and Acts 23 has his message to the Sanhedrin Council in Jerusalem. When the Roman commander Lysias hears of the Jews' plot to kill Paul, he sends him away by night to Caesarea, a city to the north and west of Jerusalem, where Felix the governor was ruling. Chapter 24 contains his defense before Felix and his sermon to Felix and Drusilla. The chapter ends with Porcius Festus taking Felix's position as governor over the region that included Caesarea. (And, in chapter 26, he preaches to Agrippa II, Bernice and Festus, which was the main chapter I discussed in the sermon.)

What I intended to say was that Felix had the same authority as Pilate had during the earlier trial of Jesus and could have likewise put Paul to death, if he so decided. They did not rule in the same area of the world, although both of them were governors by appointment from Rome, Pilate in Jerusalem and Felix in Caesarea. I said all that poorly and I apologize for being unclear.

--Roger Hillis

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

“Receive my instruction rather than silver; knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies. All the things that may be desired can't be compared to it.”

–Proverbs 8:10-11

“Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.”–Proverbs 15:16

“There is gold and abundance of rubies; but the lips of knowledge are a rare jewel.”–Proverbs 20:15

Prayer List

Holly G
Barb A
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)
Andrew A (Foot Injury)

Daily Bible Reading

Jan. 6 – Genesis 1-3; Matthew 1
Jan. 7 – Genesis 4-6; Matthew 2
Jan. 8 – Genesis 7-9; Matthew 3
Jan. 9 – Genesis 10-12; Matthew 4
Jan. 10 – Genesis 13-15; Matthew 5:1-26
Jan. 11 – Genesis 16-17; Matthew 5:27-48
Jan. 12 – Genesis 18-19; Matthew 6:1-18

“This is my comfort in my affliction, for your Word has revived me.”
–Psalm 119:50

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 6, 2019

Bible Study: Dave

Worship: Michael

Evening: Harold

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Mark

Cleaning Building

Debbie

Prepare Communion

Debbie

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Travis

Table: Roger

Serve: Steve

Dan H

Harold

Mason

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

Birthdays

January 9 - Maxine

January 9 - Douglas

January 10 - Cynde

January 15 - Mike

January 17 - Raymond