

January 20, 2019

Personal Responsibility

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
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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.

After Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit in **Genesis 3**, Adam was questioned by God. He told God “***The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it***” (verse 12). When God asked Eve about this, she replied, “***The serpent deceived me, and I ate***” (verse 13).

While both rightly confessed “***I ate***,” their confessions were prefaced with a blame on someone else. With Adam, it was the *woman* who God gave him. With Eve, it was the *serpent*.

Eve was a negative influence on Adam, and the serpent was a negative influence on Eve. Yet, Adam himself chose to sin, and so did Eve. Their disobedience was encouraged by others, but it was *their* disobedience.

As a creature created in God’s image (**Gen. 1:26-27**), mankind has the ability to reason according to God’s truth. We have the ability to distinguish between what God says is right and what God says is wrong.

Personal Responsibility

(Continued)

Moreover, we have the ability to *choose* to do what He says is right.

God could have created us as “robots” that merely act as they are forced to, but He did not. Instead, He created people who have “free will” to obey or disobey.

While God *chooses* not to force us to obey Him, Satan *cannot* force us to disobey God. Satan tempts and deceives, but our “free will” allows us to say “no” (**1 Cor. 10:13**).

This brings us back to Adam and Eve. Even before eating the fruit, the two had enough reasoning capacity to decide to do right or decide to do wrong. They were each responsible for the path they chose. Eve did not force Adam to sin, and Satan did not force Eve to sin.

“Following blindly,” as Adam did, will not be an acceptable excuse on the Day of Judgment. Yes, “*many*” are headed down the broad path that leads to destruction (**Matt. 7:13**), but reasoning, “everybody else was doing it” will not be acceptable when

we stand before Christ. Others can have a tremendous influence on us, just as we can have a tremendous influence on others. But no one can force us to sin. We do so *willfully*.

Giving into deceitful lust and pride, as Eve did, will not be an acceptable excuse on the Day of Judgment either. Yes, Satan is vicious (**1 Pet. 5:8**). He was punished for his role in Eve’s sin (**Gen. 3:14-15**), and will not “get away” with his lies and deception in the long run (cf. **Rev. 20:10**). But we must not merely blame Satan every time we sin. God urges us to *resist* Satan (**Jas. 4:7**).

The point is that we have the *ability* to choose obedience, and we therefore have the *responsibility* to choose to obey God. No matter what the majority does, and no matter what the wisdom of the world promotes, we have no excuse if we fail to heed God’s message.

May we each personally accept the responsibility we have for obeying God.

Area Gospel Meetings

Hazel Church of Christ:
January 25-27 (with Jarrod Jacobs)
F-Sat: 7:00; Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 5:00

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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

“Therefore let us also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”
–Hebrews 12:1

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. 20 – Genesis 36-38; Matt. 10:21-42
Jan. 21 – Genesis 39-40; Matt. 11
Jan. 22 – Genesis 41-42; Matt. 12:1-23
Jan. 23 – Genesis 43-45; Matt. 12:24-50
Jan. 24 – Genesis 46-48; Matt. 13:1-30
Jan. 25 – Genesis 49-50; Matt. 13:31-58
Jan. 26 – Exodus 1-3; Matt. 14:1-21

“...‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God’” –Matthew 4:4

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 20, 2019

Bible Study: Mike

Worship: Roger

Evening: Steve

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Jim

Cleaning Building

Debbie

Prepare Communion

Debbie

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Harold

Table: Mark

Serve: Darrell

Steve

Dan H

Dan D

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Invitation: Larry

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 2 - Travis

February 5 - Mike P

February 8 - Betty

February 13 - Darrell

February 15 - Dan D