

February 3, 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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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

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.

“Two-Sided Coins” of Scripture

By Michael Hickox

With any biblical subject, the *complete* teaching of God’s Word must be studied. Religious error often results from seeing *part* of the truth, while failing to see the complete truth. Notice a few “two-sided coins” of Scripture that demonstrate the need for examining the *full* picture on biblical subjects.

God’s Grace & Man’s Work: **Ephesians 2:8-9** teaches “***for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast.***”

No submission to works gives us reason to boast. No matter how many good works we do, if we have sinned even once (which we all have - **Rom. 3:23**), we face eternal death without God’s grace (**Rom. 6:23**). Salvation is not *earned* by man’s work.

Yet, works *are* needed from us in order to receive the gift of salvation. **Philippians 2:12** says “***So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.***”

Salvation is not “by grace alone” and/or “through faith alone.” Works, among other things, are necessary in order to be saved (cf. **Jas. 2:14-26**). Salvation requires **both** God’s grace **and** man’s work.

More generally, salvation requires **both** the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, **and** faith and obedience on our part.

“Two-Sided Coins” of Scripture

(Continued)

God’s Love & Righteous Judgment:

God’s choice to offer us salvation was motivated by love. He demonstrated love when His Son died for our sins (**Rom. 5:8**). Because of His love, God *really will* send the righteous to heaven (**Matt. 25:46**).

Yet, God is also a perfectly just God who *really will* send those who do not obey Him to hell (**2 Thess. 1:5-9**). The “**righteous judgment of God**” (**2 Thes. 1:5**) will not allow sin to be ignored, but the *love* of God allows sin to be forgiven when one submits to God’s terms for forgiveness.

God’s Providence & Man’s Free Will: One way God demonstrates His love for mankind is through His providence.

The “providence of God” is not a term used in Scripture, but the principle is taught. For instance, the apostle Paul prayed for the Philippian brethren to grow in love, discernment, sincerity, and righteousness (**Phil. 1:9-11**). Prayers such as these demonstrate an expectation that God works to help His children serve Him.

While God does work through His providence, this does not mean that He *forces* anyone to do right. God chose to create mankind with *free will*. God’s preference is to help us submit to Him, but we have “free will” and must *choose* to obey (cf. **Matt. 23:37**).

What Baptism Is and Is Not: Another two-sided coin of Scripture involves what baptism does and does not do.

Some teach that baptism is not necessary for salvation. God teaches otherwise.

Those on the Day of Pentecost were told by the Lord’s apostle, “**Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**” (**Acts 2:38**). Before becoming a Christian, Saul of Tarsus was told by Christ’s messenger, Ananias, “**Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord**” (**Acts 22:16**). Baptism is necessary for one to get “**into Christ**” (**Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27**), and is thus necessary for salvation (**1 Pet. 3:21**).

While we must not de-emphasize the necessity placed by God on baptism, we must not make baptism out to be something that it is not.

For instance, God does not promise that baptism washes away unrepentant sin. Notice that in **Acts 2:38**, the command “**Repent**” is connected to the forgiveness of sin, just as baptism is. Upon being baptized, we must steadfastly submit to Christ’s doctrine revealed through His apostles (**Acts 2:42**). Even if we do this initially, we can fall “**away from grace**” (**Gal. 5:4**) if we later turn away from God.

These examples help us to see that we must look at the *totality* of what Scripture teaches on any subject. May we examine God’s Word in this way, viewing every side of each biblical “coin.”

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

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him. Without Him was not anything made that has been made.” –John 1:1-3

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.”
–2 Timothy 1:12

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 (Hospice) & Family
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

Feb. 3 – Exodus 21-22; Matt. 19
Feb. 4 – Exodus 23-24; Matt. 20:1-16
Feb. 5 – Exodus 25-26; Matt. 20:17-34
Feb. 6 – Exodus 27-28; Matt. 21:1-22
Feb. 7 – Exodus 29-30; Matt. 21:23-46
Feb. 8 – Exodus 31-33; Matt. 22:1-22
Feb. 9 – Exodus 34-35; Matt. 22:23-46

“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”
–Romans 10:17

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Bible Study: John

Worship: Dave

Evening: Michael

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Harold

Cleaning Building

Donna

Prepare Communion

Donna

Upcoming Reminders

Feb. 23: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, February 10, 2019

Reading: Steve

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Dan H

Serve: Dave

Mike

Roger

Darrell

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Invitation: Dan D

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 5 - Mike P

February 8 - Betty

February 13 - Darrell

February 15 - Dan D

February 23 - Larry

February 28 - Donna

February 28 - Sandy