

February 10, 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.

“The Great Commandment”

By Michael Hickox

Jesus gave a simple but profound answer to the question, “**Master, which is the great commandment in the law?**” in **Matthew 22:36**. Verse 37: **Jesus said unto him, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”**

The word for love in this passage (“agapao”), and the similar word, “agape,” are each used over 100 times in the New Testament. In these passages, the Holy Spirit defines what it means to love God and others as He commands.

1 John 5:3 says “**For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.**” The verse before says “**by this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments.**” In **John 14:15**, Jesus says “**If ye love me, keep my commandments.**”

Loving God does not mean living for ourselves and then claiming God is rewarding us by giving us all of our temporal desires. Rather, it means

“The Great Commandment”

(Continued)

transforming our lives to become what He wants us to be. It demands change, sacrifice, hard work, and attention to every part of His Word.

This has a number of applications. On one hand, there can be a temptation to follow certain commands of God, or at least appear to on the surface, without a sincere desire to please Him. There are those who “go through the motions” when praying and worshipping (**Matt. 6:7**). There are those who do certain things merely to “impress” others (**Matt. 23:5**). Such have not truly given their lives over to God (cf. **Rom. 12:1**).

On the other hand, there can be a temptation to sincerely want to please God, but to try to do so by looking to our *own* ideas of *what* pleases God. Loving God as He commands demands digging into His Word to see what we need to change, how He wants us to think, how He wants us to speak, how He wants us to act, and who He wants us to be.

Jesus’ command to love our neighbors is likewise defined in

Scripture. **John 13:34: A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.** Just as Christ placed our needs ahead of what what was most pleasant or desirable for Himself, we must have this same care for others that leads us to do what we can to help them (**1 Cor. 10:33; Phil. 2:4**).

Such selflessness produces the fruit God desires (cf. **Gal. 5:14**). Loving others as ourselves leads to humility, honesty, patience, and kindness (**1 Cor. 13:4-8**).

As with many of God’s commands, understanding love requires “seeing the forest for the trees,” but also seeing the trees in the forest. The big picture is pleasing God and serving others, but the *details* of His Word tell us *how* to do this.

May we sincerely desire to please God and serve others, and may that sincerity be manifested in actions, thoughts, and words that please Him and help others in the way God’s Word commands.

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

Words to Consider

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we tell you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left to the coming of the Lord, will in no way precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever.” –1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

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. 10 – Exodus 36-38; Matt. 23:1-22
Feb. 11 – Exodus 39-40; Matt. 23:23-39
Feb. 12 – Leviticus 1-3; Matt. 24:1-28
Feb. 13 – Leviticus 4-5; Matt. 24:29-51
Feb. 14 – Leviticus 6-7; Matt. 25:1-30
Feb. 15 – Leviticus 8-10; Matt. 25:31-46
Feb. 16 – Leviticus 11-12; Matt. 26:1-25

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

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 10, 2019

Bible Study: Steve

Worship: Darrell

Evening: Larry

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Dan H

Cleaning Building

Donna

Prepare Communion

Donna

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Reading: Harold

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Mike

Serve: Steve

John

Travis

Jim

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 13 - Darrell

February 15 - Dan D

February 23 - Larry

February 28 - Donna

February 28 - Sandy