

February 17, 2019

The Mercy of God

By Michael Hickox

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.

God's mercy was well exemplified in the life of the apostle Paul. Before Paul was converted, he bore the name Saul and zealously persecuted those who followed Jesus (**Acts 8:3**).

As he was traveling to Damascus to find Christians to persecute, Saul was met by Jesus who asked, "**Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?**" (**Acts 9:4**). Saul learned that he had been living in sin. He learned what he needed to do to be forgiven, and then did it. Because of Saul's repentance and choice to obey God, the grace of God was extended to him.

When Paul looked back on this, he realized that he was undeserving of God's mercy (**1 Tim. 1:15-16**).

In his letter to the Romans, Paul pointed out that we have *all* done things that make us undeserving of God's mercy. **Romans 3:23: For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;**

No matter what an individual has done in the past, though, he or she can be forgiven by God through obedience.

Those who reject such a gift will be greatly disappointed on the Day of Judgment. Those who accept God's mercy have reason to always rejoice for such a wonderful gift.

Obedience from the Heart

By Michael Hickox

Mark 12:41-44: *Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and saw how the multitude cast money into the treasury. Many who were rich cast in much. A poor widow came, and she cast in two small brass coins, which equal a quadrans coin. He called His disciples to Himself, and said to them, “Most certainly I tell you, this poor widow gave more than all those who are giving into the treasury, for they all gave out of their abundance, but she, out of her poverty, gave all that she had to live on.”*

In **Mark 12:38-40**, the inspired writer recorded Jesus’ rebukes against certain scribes who did works for “***greetings in the marketplaces***” and “***for a pretense.***” These individuals’ righteousness looked impressive to many, but God saw right through them.

Right after Mark’s account of these rebukes comes the account of the poor widow. Just as God saw through the hypocrisy of the scribes, He saw the sincerity of a woman who may not have appeared to be doing a whole lot in the eyes of others, but Jesus knew the “full story.” Whether or not the widow’s benevolence was impressive to mankind,

it pleased God in part because it came from a pure heart.

Some who gave much may have done so to “show off,” like the motive the scribes had for making long prayers (**Mark 12:40**). Some may have given “***grudgingly, or under compulsion***” (**2 Cor. 9:7**), instead of cheerfully. The widow who gave two mites did not demonstrate either of these attitudes.

The widow’s example demonstrates several biblical principles. God does not always judge and value things in the same way man does. This is partly because He knows things that we do not, as demonstrated with the poor widow and her circumstances.

It is also brought out that God looks at more than just outward actions...he looks at our hearts (cf. **1 Sam. 16:6-7**). This is not to say that outward actions are not important, as this account itself shows, but the heart must be right to please God. The details of the account imply that the widow obeyed from the heart.

May we learn from this example and remember what Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount, “***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God***” (**Matt. 5:8**).

Area Gospel Meetings

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:
March 17-22 (with Jim Stauffer)
Sun: 9:30, 10:20, 6:00; M-F: 7:00

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:
March 24-29 (with Andrew Roberts)
Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 5:00; M-F: 7:00

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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

"But let us, since we belong to the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and, for a helmet, the hope of salvation."
-1 Thessalonians 5:8

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)
Caleb & Darcy G

Daily Bible Reading

Feb. 17 – Leviticus 13; Matt. 26:26-50
Feb. 18 – Leviticus 14; Matt. 26:51-75
Feb. 19 – Leviticus 15-16; Matt. 27:1-26
Feb. 20 – Leviticus 17-18; Matt. 27:27-50
Feb. 21 – Leviticus 19-20; Matt. 27:51-66
Feb. 22 – Leviticus 21-22; Matt. 28
Feb. 23 – Leviticus 23-24; Mark 1:1-22

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Bible Study: Mark

Worship: Mike

Evening: Roger

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Joe

Cleaning Building

Donna

Prepare Communion

Donna

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, February 24, 2019

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Roger

Table: Larry

Serve: Mark

Mason

Dan H

John

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Invitation: Mike

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 23 - Larry

February 28 - Donna

February 28 - Sandy