

February 24, 2019

God's Plan of Salvation

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.

The central theme of the Bible is God's plan to save mankind through Christ. Consider why we *need* salvation, what *God* has done to make salvation possible, and what *we* must do to be saved.

What Do We Need To Be Saved From?:

We need to be saved from *sin* (**Matt. 1:21**).

1 John 3:4 defines sin as "***the transgression of the law.***" God has given commands for people in all "dispensations" of time to obey. His commands for *us* are contained in the Law of Christ. When we *commit* something God forbids or *omit* something He requires, we are guilty of sin.

All who have reached the age and are able to know right from wrong have sinned (**Rom. 3:23**). The only exception to this is Jesus Christ (**Heb. 4:15**).

The ultimate "***wages of sin***" is eternal death (**Rom. 6:23**). This refers to eternal separation from God (cf. **2 Thes. 1:9**). It involves spending eternity in hell.

Hell is described by our Lord as a place "***where their worm doesn't die, and the fire is not quenched***" (**Mark 9:48**). It is a place of "***eternal punishment***" (**Matt. 25:46**), where there is no hope of ever being with God again.

This is what even one sin against God "earns" us. So what we need to be saved from is *sin and its consequences*.

What Did God Do So We Can Be Saved?: God's love prompted Him to do something about our hopeless situation.

God's Plan of Salvation

(Continued)

The second part of **Romans 6:23** says "**but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" Though sin earns us eternal death in hell, God offers us eternal *life* in *heaven*.

We do not earn or deserve this gift. It is unmerited, and is offered to us through God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is deity, and took part in creating the world (**John 1:3**). But though He is deity, God the Son came to earth and took on human form (**Phil. 2:7-8**). Jesus lived in perfect obedience to the Father's will, and then gave His life so we could be saved from sin. The Father *raised* Him from the dead, thus providing hope of eternal life to His faithful children (**1 Cor. 15**).

So through God's plan, Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit's revelation of all of this, we have the opportunity to be saved from sin.

What Must We Do To Be Saved?: By fulfilling His role in the plan of salvation, Jesus became the *author* of eternal salvation. More specifically though, He became the author of eternal salvation to those who *obey* Him (**Heb. 5:9**). Salvation is *offered* to everyone, but something is needed on *our* part to receive this gift.

The New Testament shows what it takes for one to be *added* to the body of the saved. We must believe Jesus is the Son of God upon hearing that truth (**Rom. 10:17**). Some on the Day of Pentecost responded

to this conviction by asking the apostles, "**Brothers, what shall we do?**" (**Acts 2:37**). The apostle replied, "**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**" (verse 38). About three thousand souls responded by repenting and being baptized in the name of Christ for the forgiveness of sins (verse 41).

This pattern is seen throughout **Acts**. Those who believed the truth about Jesus and were willing to confess Him (**Acts 8:35-39**) repented of their sins and were "**baptized into Christ**" (**Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27**), and thus added by the Lord to His church, the body of the saved (**Acts 2:47**).

While one enters a saved condition upon being "**baptized into Christ**" as a repentant believer, this does *not* ensure one can never lose his or her salvation. Christians must faithfully obey God to remain in a saved condition (cf. **Gal. 5:4**). When one has sinned *after* becoming a Christian, he or she must repent and seek God's forgiveness (**Acts 8:22**).

Much more could be said about God's plan of salvation, but after looking at these points from Scripture, we can understand that salvation is needed because of sin, God did His part to make salvation possible through the work of His Son, and now we must respond in faithful obedience to Him in order to receive this gift of salvation.

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

“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.” –Eph. 4:4-6

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)
Everly G

Daily Bible Reading

Feb. 24 – Leviticus 25; Mark 1:23-45
Feb. 25 – Leviticus 26-27; Mark 2
Feb. 26 – Numbers 1-2; Mark 3:1-19
Feb. 27 – Numbers 3-4; Mark 3:20-35
Feb. 28 – Numbers 5-6; Mark 4:1-20
Mar. 1 – Numbers 7-8; Mark 4:21-41
Mar. 2 – Numbers 9-11; Mark 5:1-20

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 24, 2019

Bible Study: Jim
Worship: Travis
Evening: Dan D

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Carlyle

Cleaning Building

Donna

Prepare Communion

Donna

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Reading: See
Announcements: Bulletin
Table: Board
Serve:

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Invitation:

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 28 - Donna
February 28 - Sandy
March 1 - Stacey