

March 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 |
|-------------|---------|

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.

By What Authority?

By Michael Hickox

In **Mark 11:28**, some Jewish leaders asked Jesus, “***By what authority do you do these things? Or who gave you this authority to do these things?***”

Jesus indirectly answered this when talking to Pilate in **John 19:11**. There He said, “***Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from heaven above:***”

God is the original source of all authority. As the Creator of the world and all that is in it, He has the power to delegate authority as He sees fit.

God the Son has been delegated spiritual authority. The Father “***put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all***” (**Eph. 1:22-23**; cf. **Matt. 28:18**). When it comes to religious matters, authority lies in the Godhead.

This should lead the sincere lover of truth to ask, “By what authority do I believe and practice what I do religiously?” Am I following the authoritative Law of Christ, or am I following the thoughts of men who think they know more than God?

In the letter to the churches at Galatia, the Holy Spirit through Paul dealt with problems caused by Judaizers (men who bound Jewish traditions as requirements

By What Authority?

(Continued)

for Christians). Paul distinguished between their “authority,” which was from men, and the authority by which he taught, which was Christ’s (**Gal. 1:11-12**).

Paul was not saying that he was given authority to decide doctrine. He was used by God, though, to teach God’s will at a time the complete written word was not available. Like the other apostles, Paul was an instrument through which Jesus took the Gospel to the whole world.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles “**into all the truth**” (**John 16:13**). The apostles acted under Christ’s authority. God proved this by confirming the doctrine they taught “**by the signs that followed**” (**Mark 16:20b**).

At the point God’s written Word was made complete, there was no longer a need for men to be miraculously guided like the apostles were. This principle is taught in **1 Corinthians 13** (see especially **verses 8-10**).

If individuals claim to have God working through them to reveal new doctrine today, they must be deemed among the “**many false prophets [who] are gone out into the world**” (**1 John 4:1**).

What men teach when they try to establish doctrine without God’s authority is nothing more than commands of men. Like the Pharisees who worshipped God

in vain by “**teaching for doctrines the commandments of men**” (**Mark 7:7**), so too do those who establish religious creeds and rules from the minds of men. They deceive themselves and others into blatantly rejecting the commandments of God, like the Pharisees did.

Such apostasies are rooted in where one looks for spiritual authority. While God exhorts us to turn to the Scriptures (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**), mankind often turns to mankind. This is a recipe for error. Mankind will always come up with “bright ideas” that are proven foolish by a simple reading of God’s Word.

What God authorizes with regard to spiritual matters has been revealed in its entirety. There is no need for man to decide what new doctrines to adopt. There is only need for man to study and find out what God has commanded.

Instead of looking to creeds and councils of men for answers to spiritual matters, won’t we look to God’s Word, which is “**profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness**” (**2 Tim. 3:16**), and can be understood by everyone (cf. **Mark 7:14**)?

Doctrinal authority lies with the Godhead, and that is by what authority Christ’s followers should live.

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

Casey Westside church of Christ:
March 21-24 (with Donnie Rader)
Th-F: 7:00; Sat: 6:00; Sun: 9:30, 10:20, 6:00

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

+++++

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

“Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father, through Him” –Colossians 3:17

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
 Mike D (Broken Neck)
 Everly G

Daily Bible Reading

Mar. 3 – Numbers 12-14; Mark 5:21-43
 Mar. 4 – Numbers 15-16; Mark 6:1-29
 Mar. 5 – Numbers 17-19; Mark 6:30-56
 Mar. 6 – Numbers 20-22; Mark 7:1-13
 Mar. 7 – Numbers 23-25; Mark 7:14-37
 Mar. 8 – Numbers 26-28; Mark 8
 Mar. 9 – Numbers 29-31; Mark 9:1-29

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Bible Study: Harold

Worship: John

Evening: Dave

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Michael

Cleaning Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Misty

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Mike

Table: Dave

Serve: Dan D

Mike

Roger

Darrell

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Invitation: Larry

Anniversaries

March 22 - Raymond & Maxine

March 28 - John & Cynde

Birthdays

March 12 - Ron

March 13 - Harold

March 15 - Anna