

April 7, 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.

What God Says About Baptism

By Michael Hickox

Much confusion exists in the religious world about baptism. Though man teaches conflicting views on baptism, God's teaching is consistent.

God teaches that salvation is unmerited (**Eph. 2:8**), yet faith and obedience are needed to receive salvation (**Heb. 5:9**).

One specific act of obedience God requires to receive salvation is baptism (**1 Pet. 3:21; Mark 16:16**). This connection is better understood when we read what scriptural baptism does for us.

In **Acts 2:38**, the Lord's inspired apostle connected baptism in the name of Christ with the "**forgiveness of sins**." In **Acts 22:16**, a messenger of the Lord is quoted as saying "**Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**" From these verses, it is clear that baptism is necessary for us to have our sins forgiven.

Notice also what the Bible teaches about the point at which one gets "**into Christ**."

Romans 6:3 says, "**Or don't you know that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?**" **Galatians 3:27** says, "**For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**"

The New Testament clearly teaches that the point at which one gets "**into Christ**" (i.e. becomes a New Testament Christian) is when he or she is scripturally baptized.

Not only is baptism required for salvation, but more specifically, *water* baptism by *immersion* is necessary for salvation.

What God Says About Baptism

(Continued)

This point is seen in the account of Philip and the eunuch. When the eunuch asked Philip a question about a Bible passage, **“Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, preached to him Jesus. As they went on the way, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, ‘Behold, here is water. What is keeping me from being baptized?’” (Acts 8:35-36)**

This shows the necessity of *water* baptism, with the words **“here is water.”**

Verses 38-39 go on to describe what scriptural baptism looks like. The verses do not describe (so-called) “baptism” by sprinkling or pouring. Instead, the verses teach that **“they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him” (verse 38). Verse 39** mentions them coming **“up out of the water,”** showing again that this was not a sprinkling or pouring.

Romans 6:4-6 likewise shows that baptism is by immersion, and explains the significance of this. There is a connection between the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and what happens at baptism. Being immersed in water is connected to “putting off” the old man of sin, “burying” that sinful life in the waters of baptism, and rising to **“walk in newness of life.”**

One who has only had water sprinkled or poured upon him or her as a means of “being baptized” has not been *scripturally* baptized. He or she has not submitted to God’s terms for salvation.

It is also key to note what the Bible teaches should precede baptism.

It does not take months of study to know what is needed to become a Christian. In fact, many of the examples in the New Testament that show people becoming Christians occur after those individuals heard just one lesson. However, there *are* some things noted in the New Testament that precede baptism.

The eunuch could not come to the decision to be baptized until He heard the truth about Jesus (**Acts 8:35**), and believed that truth. When the eunuch requested to be baptized, Philip answered **“If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest” (Acts 8:37 – KJV)**. The eunuch confessed **“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (verse 37 – KJV; cf. Rom. 10:10)**.

Just before the apostle Peter commanded baptism in **Acts 2:38**, he commanded **“Repent.”**

Repentance involves a change of mind, or, more generally, a change of direction. For us, it means turning in the opposite direction of sin. One who believes on Jesus and wants to become a Christian should have a desire to do what is right, and recognize that he or she is expected to submit to God not only in the act of baptism, but in his or her life in general.

While man has come up with many ideas concerning baptism, please consider what *God* says about baptism. It is *His* Word that will judge us (**John 12:48**). May we heed *His* teachings on this and all biblical subjects.

Area Gospel Meetings

Ohio Street Church of Christ:
April 7-12 (with Brad Sullivan)
Sun: 1:30, 2:15; M-F: 7:00

Casey Westside church of Christ:
April 12 (Singing Service)
Friday: 7:00

*Our Gospel meeting will be
April 21-26 with Gerry Sandusky*

Elm Grove Church of Christ:
April 28 - May 3 (with L.A. Stauffer)
Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 3:30; 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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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)
Mattie B (Leukemia)
Linda & Family
Dody G
Joe B (Lung Cancer)
Allen S (Cancer)
Jeanette & Family
Raymond B
Mike D (Broken Neck)
Everly G

Daily Bible Reading

April 7 – Judges 16-18; Luke 7:1-30
April 8 – Judges 19-21; Luke 7:31-50
April 9 – Ruth 1-4; Luke 8:1-25
April 10 – 1 Samuel 1-3; Luke 8:26-56
April 11 – 1 Samuel 4-6; Luke 9:1-17
April 12 – 1 Samuel 7-9; Luke 9:18-36
April 13 – 1 Samuel 10-12; Luke 9:37-62

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Bible Study: Michael
Worship: Harold
Evening: John

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Darrell

Cleaning Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Upcoming Reminders

April 20: Flyer Distribution @ 9:30 a.m.

April 21-26: Gospel Meeting
with Gerry Sandusky

April 27: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

June 15: Vacation Bible School

Assignments

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Reading: Harold
Announcements: Darrell
Table: Travis
Serve: Mike
Roger
Dan D
Dave

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

April 9 - David & Janice

Birthdays

April 25 - Jessica

April 29 - Jerry