

April 14, 2019

The Cost of Discipleship

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.

Luke 14:33: *So therefore whoever of you who doesn't renounce all that he has, he can't be my disciple.*

Jesus does not call anyone to be a part-time worker in His kingdom. The call to follow Christ is a call to give ourselves wholeheartedly to His service. It involves forsaking whatever is necessary in order to obey His commands.

In **Luke 9:57**, a man told Jesus he would follow Him wherever He went. Jesus responded in **verse 58** by saying that "***the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.***"

Jesus did not want the man to be delusional about the cost of following Him. He does not want us to be either. Following Christ is a 24/7 lifestyle. It may involve giving up many earthly possessions (cf. **Matt. 19:21**). It may involve losing close friendships (cf. **Luke 14:26**). It may even involve facing physical persecution, as many of the 1st century Christians did (cf. **Rev. 2:10**). Being a disciple of Christ is not something to take lightly.

If we only see the temporal and material side of life, we may ask why someone would choose to live such a life. What could be worth forsaking so much?

The answer is living for Jesus, and being a part of His eternal kingdom.

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Consider the parables of the kingdom in **Matthew 13:44-46**: ***Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found, and hid. In his joy, he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who is a merchant seeking fine pearls, who having found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it.***

If we see the kingdom of heaven as the treasure that it is, we will be willing to give up whatever is needful to be a part of it.

Consider what the “cost of discipleship” was for Paul. He said ***“Five times from the Jews I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I suffered shipwrecked. I have been a night and a day the deep. I have been in travels often, perils of rivers, perils of robbers, perils from my countrymen, perils from the Gentiles, perils in the city, perils in the wilderness, perils in the sea, perils among false brothers; in labor and travail, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, and in cold and nakedness”*** (2 Cor. 11:24-27).

Paul’s physical body endured a lot of

hardships. Yet, Paul was not discouraged. His outward man was decaying, but his inward man was renewed daily (2 Cor. 4:16). As Paul was suffering, he said ***“our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; while we don’t look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal”*** (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

Paul called his suffering ***“light affliction.”*** Why? His mind was on the spiritual rather than the physical. He lived for the eternal rather than the temporal. Paul experienced joy and peace that was much deeper than anything this world could offer. This made hardships and persecutions seem light in his eyes.

If we are spiritually-minded like Paul and focus on the eternal rather than the temporal, we will experience the same spiritual blessings that Paul experienced.

We will realize that the cost of discipleship is high, but the value far outweighs the cost.

May we choose to forsake whatever is needful in order to submit to Christ. Being His disciple is more than worth it.

Area Gospel Meetings

*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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Words to Consider

***"Every day I will bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable."* – Psalm 145:2-3**

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 14 – 1 Sam. 13-14; Luke 10:1-24
 April 15 – 1 Sam. 15-16; Luke 10:25-42
 April 16 – 1 Sam. 17-18; Luke 11:1-28
 April 17 – 1 Sam. 19-21; Luke 11:29-54
 April 18 – 1 Sam. 22-24; Luke 12:1-31
 April 19 – 1 Sam. 25-26; Luke 12:32-59
 April 20 – 1 Sam. 27-29; Luke 13:1-22

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Bible Study: Larry

Worship: Dan H

Evening: Steve

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Mike

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 21, 2019

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Roger

Table: Mike

Serve: Mark

Dan H

Steve

Travis

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Invitation:

Anniversaries

Birthdays

April 25 - Jessica

April 29 - Jerry

May 4 - Lovetta