

July 7, 2019

A Recurring Theme

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450

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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.

Deuteronomy 28:1: *And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:*

Deuteronomy 28:15: *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

The descendants of Israel entered into a covenant with God after they left Egypt. God through Moses gave them a law, and their responsibility was to obey.

Just as God delivered the Israelites from bondage because of Abraham's obedience (**Exodus 2:24**), He promised to continue blessing the Israelites if they were obedient. Yet, this "exodus" generation of Israelites did not obey, and they were therefore punished.

In Deuteronomy, their descendants were taught that this same treatment would be given to them. After delivering the law to this new generation of Israelites, God through Moses promised rewards for obeying Him and curses for disobeying.

A Recurring Theme

(Continued)

This is a recurring theme in the Old Testament. The Israelites, led by Joshua, were able to take Canaan because of obedience, yet because they did not fully obey in driving out the inhabitants of the land, they were left with “*snares and traps*,” “*scourges in [their] sides*,” and “*thorns in [their] eyes*,” (Joshua 23:13; cf. Numbers 33:55).

Following the conquest of Canaan, the Israelites continually rebelled against God. God punished them for their rejection of Him (Judges 2:10-15), but delivered judges (executive leaders) to lead them out of oppression. These judges led the Israelites to repentance and consequent forgiveness (Judges 2:18). Sometime after, Israel would again turn to sin, again be punished, and the cycle continued (Judges 2:19-23).

The theme of reward for obedience and punishment for disobedience continued into the period of the kings. David, who was largely obedient (1 Kings 15:5), prospered as king, as did his son Solomon toward the beginning of his reign (1 Chron. 29:23). Yet, Solomon’s disobedience led to the dividing of the kingdom, as his descendants were kings over Judah and Benjamin only (1 Kings 11:11-13), with the northern ten tribes forming their own kingdom.

In the period of the divided kingdom, rewards for obedience and punishment for disobedience continued further. The northern ten tribes were wicked, and thus taken captive by Assyria (2 Kings 17:6-23). The southern kingdom of Judah was faithful and blessed at times, but ultimately, disobedience led Judah into Babylonian captivity (2 Kings 25:1-10).

This theme is simple: obey God and good will happen; disobey God and bad will happen.

Just as the Israelites had the responsibility to obey the Law of Moses, we today are responsible for obeying the Law of Christ (Hebrews 9:15).

Under the Old Law, God often (though not always) bestowed blessings on the faithful that were *physical* in nature.

Today, we have no guarantee of physical prosperity if we are faithful to Him. We do, however, have promises of *spiritual* blessings if we obey the Law of Christ, and eternal doom if we do not.

Yet, as happened thousands of years ago, many take lightly our need for obeying God.

Like Israel, we have a reward promised if we obey God’s will for us, while we have a punishment promised if we don’t. May we choose to obey God, and receive the rich spiritual blessings He offers.

Area Gospel Meetings

Bellair Church of Christ:
July 8-12 (with Chuck Bartlett)
M-F: 7:00 PM

Casey Westside church of Christ:
July 12-14 (with Andy Cantrell)
F: 7:00; Sat: 6:00; Sun: 9:30; 10:20; 6:00

River Ridge church of Christ:
July 13 (Singing)
Sat: 2:30-4:00 PM

Yale church of Christ:
July 15-19 (with Mike Davis)
M-F: 7:00 PM

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:
July 28 - August 2 (with Greg Sharp)
Sun: 9:30; 10:30; 6:00; M-F: 7:00 PM

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 Hop	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Betty P
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Linda & Family
Dody G
Joe B
Allen S (Cancer)
Jeanette & Family
Raymond & Maxine
June H (Broken Pelvis)
Loren G (Injuries from fall)
Randy S (Strokes)

Daily Bible Reading

July 7 – Job 22-24; Acts 11
July 8 – Job 25-27; Acts 12
July 9 – Job 28-29; Acts 13:1-25
July 10 – Job 30-31; Acts 13:26-52
July 11 – Job 32-33; Acts 14
July 12 – Job 34-35; Acts 15:1-21
July 13 – Job 36-37; Acts 15:22-41

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” - Proverbs 3:6

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, July 7, 2019

Bible Study: Harold

Worship: John

Evening: Carlyle

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Larry

Cleaning Building

Jessica

Prepare Communion

Jessica

Upcoming Reminders

July 20: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Study: Two Gracious Souls (Ruth 2:8-13)

August 11-16: Gospel Meeting

Speaker: David Tant

Assignments

Sunday, July 14, 2019

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Travis

Table: Dave

Serve: Jim

Roger

Harold

Darrell

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Invitation: Travis

Anniversaries

July 11 – Ethan and Lindsay

July 16 – Darrell and Sidney

Birthdays

July 8 – Mark

July 12 – Holly

July 12 – Jessilyn