

July 21, 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.

Jesus, the Loving Shepherd

By Michael Hickox

In **John 10:11**, Jesus said, "***I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.***" Jesus often used sheep and shepherds to illustrate spiritual truths. One passage in which He did so is **John 10:1-18**. In this passage, Jesus described Himself as both the door to the sheep fold and the good shepherd.

To appreciate Jesus' role as our shepherd, we must recognize our *need* for a shepherd. This involves accepting that we are, spiritually speaking, *sheep*.

Without a shepherd, sheep cannot take care of themselves. Without a shepherd, it will likely not be long before sheep are devoured by predators.

Though we may not like comparing ourselves to sheep, we *are* like sheep, needing a trustworthy shepherd to lead us to *spiritual* security and safety.

This ties in with Jesus' point that He is the door to the sheep fold (**John 10:7**). In **verse 9**, Jesus said, "***I am the door. If anyone enters in by me, he will be saved, and will go in and go out, and will find pasture.***"

As the hymn *Jesus, the Loving Shepherd* says, "without is danger," but in Christ, one is in "the fold of safety." In Christ, we are spiritually provided for.

By referring to Himself as both the door to the sheep fold *and* the good

Jesus, the Loving Shepherd

(Continued)

shepherd, Jesus shows us that not only is He the One *in whom* we have safety, but He is also the One who *leads* us to safety.

Notice **John 10:3-4**: *The gatekeeper opens the gate for [the shepherd], and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. Whenever he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.* These verses show us two ways in which our shepherd leads us.

He leads us, for one, by His words. As Jesus said, *“the sheep listen to [the shepherd’s] voice.”* We must obey the commands Jesus speaks to us through His word, looking to Him as our leader.

Jesus is contrasted with the false shepherds (“*strangers*”) **John 10:5** refers to. Jesus’ followers must approach spiritual matters with the right heart to properly distinguish between the deceiving “*voice*” of strangers, and the voice of the true shepherd.

Like an earthly shepherd, though, Jesus also leads by going before us (**John 10:4**). He has left us a perfect example to follow. Walking in Jesus’ steps is a theme of the New Testament (**John 13:15**; **1 Pet. 2:21**; **1 John 2:6**). As sheep, we should follow the example Jesus has given us.

In describing Himself as the good shepherd, Jesus also expressed the care He has for His sheep.

While the “*thief*” of **John 10** only has selfish, greedy desires toward the sheep (**verse 10**), and the “*hired hand*” puts his own interests ahead of the sheep’s (**verses 12-13**), the good shepherd is different. Christ has laid down His life for the sheep (**verses 11, 15**).

John 10:17-18 emphasizes Christ’s *willingness* to go to the cross. As Jesus implied in **Matthew 26:53**, He could have been sent more than twelve legions of angels to stop His enemies from crucifying Him, but He *chose* to go to the cross, in order that we might be saved.

We could not ask anything more of our great Shepherd. We should be appreciative of our Shepherd’s protection, provision, and willingness to sacrifice Himself for us.

Furthermore, we should accept His provision by following Him with full trust that He knows what is best for us.

When we do so, we can trust that we will be spiritually secure in the “fold of safety.” We can trust that no matter what persecutions or trials come our way, spiritual predators are nothing in comparison to our great Shepherd.

May we appreciate, follow, and trust Jesus, the loving Shepherd.

Area Gospel Meetings

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

*Our Gospel Meeting will be **August 11-16**
with David Tant (see flyers for topics)*

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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

"Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season, if we don't give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let's do what is good toward all men, and especially toward those who are of the household of faith." – Galatians 6:9-10

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Betty P
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Dody G
Joe B
Allen S (Cancer)
Raymond & Maxine
June H (Broken Pelvis)
Randy S (Strokes)
Mike & Family

Daily Bible Reading

July 21 – Psalms 16-17; Acts 20:1-16
July 22 – Psalms 18-19; Acts 20:17-38
July 23 – Psalms 20-22; Acts 21:1-17
July 24 – Psalms 23-25; Acts 21:18-40
July 25 – Psalms 26-28; Acts 22
July 26 – Psalms 29-30; Acts 23:1-15
July 27 – Psalms 31-32; Acts 23:16-35

"Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments." – Psalm 119:66

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, July 21, 2019

Bible Study: Jeff

Worship: Mark

Evening: Mike

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Dan D

Cleaning Building

Jessica

Prepare Communion

Jessica

Upcoming Reminders

July 27: 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 28, 2019

Reading: Jim

Announcements: Harold

Table: Steve

Serve: Jeff

Dave

Dan H

Mark

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

August 15 – Roger and Debbie

Birthdays

August 4 – Steve

August 4 – Mabel

August 5 – Julzy

August 10 – Cheryl