

September 29, 2019

Christ's Sufferings

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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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.

Our Savior demonstrated humility and selflessness in His choice to descend to earth and live as a man (**Phil. 2:5-8**). He did not make this choice to gain wealth, popularity, or earthly power (cf. **John 18:36**). Rather, He chose to sacrifice His *own* comfort and thereby make *our* salvation possible.

Even before the events surrounding His death, Jesus did not have what many would consider a pleasant life. He was at times homeless (**Luke 9:58**), and often rejected (**John 6:66**).

Especially painful suffering is seen, though, in Jesus' death and the events leading up to it. Jesus endured excruciating physical and mental anguish. **Matthew 27:26** speaks of His scourging. **Verses 27-30** go on to speak of Him being mocked, spit upon, and smitten on the head. **Verse 31** says that He was then led away to be crucified.

Those who delivered Jesus up to die "**found no cause of death in Him, yet asked they of Pilate that He should be slain**" (**Acts 13:28**). Their motive was envy (**Matt. 27:18**). Jesus' opponents demonstrated despicable hatred.

On God and Christ's part, however, the cross was a perfect example of love (**Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:14**).

May we appreciate this, and give our lives to the One who gave His life for us.

“They Think It Strange”

By Michael Hickox

1 Peter 4:3-4: *For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:*

1 Peter teaches that following Jesus involves being God’s “***peculiar people***” (1 Pet. 2:9) and living as “***strangers and pilgrims***” (1 Pet. 2:11) who are set apart from this world. The word “***peculiar***” refers to the fact that the church is God’s purchased possession (see *Strong G4047*). As God’s people who are set apart for His purpose, Christians are different, and can even seem “strange” in the eyes of the world.

One who has put off the old life of sin (1 Pet. 4:1-2) no longer fills his or her time with things like “***lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine,***” but with soberness and prayer (verse 7), fervent charity (verse 8), hospitality (verse 9), and service to God and others (verses 10-11).

Living this life is not viewed as “normal.” People may “***think it strange***” when a man and woman wait until marriage for sexual contact. “***They think it strange***” when one refuses to tell a lie, no matter how “small” the lie seems.

People may “***think it strange***” when one avoids gossip and murmuring, or when one is asked what plans he or she has for the evening and replies, “I have an hour set aside to pray,” “I’m studying the Bible this evening,” or something similar.

Telling people we are Christians does not necessarily change this perception. Our society sees Christianity as a belief that Jesus is the Son of God (which is good) and a choice to assemble with saints (which is also good), but New Testament Christianity is a *lifestyle* of commitment to God (Rom. 12:1), and many find this lifestyle strange.

God’s people have long been tempted to “fit in” with the world (1 Sam. 8:20), but God does not desire this (Jas. 4:4).

This doesn’t mean we can’t fit in with the majority on things God is indifferent about (i.e. preferring chicken or steak). When it comes to spiritual matters, though, we must not be “***conformed to this world***” (Rom. 12:2). The lifestyle God commands is in many ways different from that of the majority.

Though the world’s opinions of us can be discouraging, may we remember that this world is not our permanent home. On Judgment Day, we will either be glad, or wish, we took the narrow path that leads to life (Matt. 7:14)...the path just a few seemingly “strange” people take.

Area Gospel Meetings

Elm Grove church of Christ:

Sep. 29 – Oct. 2 (with various speakers)
Sun: 9:30; 3:30; M-W: 7:00 PM

Benton Church of Christ:

Oct. 6 – 11 (with Ken Chapman)
Sun: 9:30; 10:30; 6:00; M-F: 7:00 PM

Mattoon South Side Church of Christ:

Oct. 14 – 20 (with L.A. Stauffer)
M-Sat: 7:00 PM; Sun: 9:30; 10:30; 6:00

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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

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” – Proverbs 20:1

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Betty P
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Dody G
Joe B
Allen S (Cancer)
Raymond & Maxine
Randy & Kim S
Mike & Family
Ken & Chris F
Brandon O’s Grandmother (Lung Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

Sep. 29 – Song of Solomon 4-5; Galatians 3
Sep. 30 – Song of Solomon 6-8; Galatians 4
October 1 – Isaiah 1-2; Galatians 5
October 2 – Isaiah 3-4; Galatians 6
October 3 – Isaiah 5-6; Ephesians 1
October 4 – Isaiah 7-8; Ephesians 2
October 5 – Isaiah 9-10; Ephesians 3

“And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.”– Psalm 119:47

“Trouble and anguish have taken hold of me. Your commandments are my delight.”– Psalm 119:143

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, September 29, 2019

Bible Study: Joe

Worship: Carlyle

Evening: John

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Carlyle

Cleaning Building

Misty (Sep) / Cynde (Oct)

Prepare Communion

Donna (Sep) / Donna (Oct)

Upcoming Reminders

Oct. 26: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Study: A Virtuous Woman (Ruth 3:8-18)

Assignments

Sunday, October 6, 2019

Reading: Dave

Announcements: Steve

Table: Darrell

Serve: Carlyle

Mason

Roger

Dan D

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

October 6 – Travis & Jessica

October 11 – Mike & Paula

October 27 – Carlyle & Donna

Birthdays

October 2 – Carlyle

October 4 – Norma

October 20 – Alita

October 21 – Dave

October 22 – Janice

October 23 – Craig

October 29 – Morgan