

October 13, 2019

## “In the World, but Not of the World”

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
P.O. Box 683  
Olney, IL 62450  
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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.

In part of Jesus' prayer of **John 17**, He said, "***I pray not that you would take them from the world, but that you would keep them from the evil one***" (verse 15). This is among the passages that show the need for Christ's disciples to be "in the world, but not of the world." Consider some things God teaches related to this theme.

Being "in the world" involves living amid and coming into contact with worldly people. The Holy Spirit warns that "***evil companionships corrupt good morals***" (**1 Cor. 15:33**). This does not mean, though, that God expects us to cut ourselves off *completely* from those of the world (cf. **1 Cor. 5:10**). We have duties as we live on earth, and we cannot fulfill them by cutting ourselves off from society.

Though we must be "in the world," we must not be "of the world." That is, we must choose to follow *God's* pattern for our lives instead of conforming to the world.

Lot exemplified this. When God punished Sodom and Gomorrah for unrighteousness, He "***delivered righteous Lot, who was very distressed by the lustful life of the wicked***" (**2 Pet. 2:7**).

Biblical history shows many of God's children living amid unrighteousness that was just as severe, if not more so, than that which surrounds us today. Lot and others showed that we can be righteous even "***in the middle of a crooked and perverse generation***" (**Phil. 2:15**).

# “In the World, but Not of the World”

(Continued)

To be set apart in this way, we must allow God to transform our *thinking*.

Notice **Romans 12:2**: ***Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.*** It is easy to unwittingly allow society to shape and mold us into one who conforms to “majority opinion.” God teaches that we must instead go through a spiritual metamorphosis, changing our minds to fit *His* will.

This is done by looking to God's Word as our standard in life. There are many “**who call evil good, and good evil**” (**Isa. 5:20**), but lack this self-awareness because they compare their beliefs and practices to the world instead of God's Word.

Those who are “in the world, but not of the world” allow God to tell us what is right and wrong, and develop an abhorrence for what God declares evil and a love for what He declares right (**Rom. 12:9**). This change of thinking should lead to a change of *practice*, thus allowing God's truth to shape us for His glory (**John 17:17**).

When we change our beliefs and practices in harmony with God's will, we will be *different* from the world. While many want to “fit in” with the majority, we should remember that “**many**” are headed down the “**broad**” way “**that leads to destruction**,” (**Matt. 7:13**), while “**few**” are

headed down the “**narrow**” way “**that leads to life**” (**verse 14**). Instead of viewing the differences that result from godliness *negatively*, we should realize such differences are *good*.

**1 Peter 4:4** references the bad reaction those of the world often have toward Christians. While the world's evil speaking can be upsetting, it is a *wonderful* thing when one leaves behind sins such as those mentioned in **verse 3** of **1 Peter 4**. Being viewed as “**strange**” is *light* relative to the *joy* of escaping sin's snare.

Though transforming our lives to fit God's will is a *positive* change, there are *temporary* hardships that can be expected. “**All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution**” (**2 Tim. 3:12**). Such persecution may be physical or *mental* (like that of **1 Pet. 4:4**). It may come from a family member (**Matt. 10:36**), or close friend. We must endure trials, putting Christ's will for us above all.

Endurance through trials calls for *trusting* our Almighty God. If “**our citizenship is in heaven**” (**Phil. 3:20**), we should trust our King who is in heaven, casting our cares on Him (**1 Pet. 5:7**), and looking to the time we will be with Him forever.

May we heed God's guidance and be “in the world, but not of the world,” allowing God to transform our lives for His glory.

-Michael Hickox

## Area Gospel Meetings

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

River Ridge church of Christ:

Oct. 20 – 23 (with Bob Pulliam)  
Sun: 9:00; 10:00; 4:00; M-W: 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

***“Before destruction the heart of man is proud, but before honor is humility.”***

**– Proverbs 18:12**

***“Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:”*** – Isaiah 26:4

## 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

October 13 – Isaiah 30-31; Philippians 4  
October 14 – Isaiah 32-33; Colossians 1  
October 15 – Isaiah 34-36; Colossians 2  
October 16 – Isaiah 37-38; Colossians 3  
October 17 – Isaiah 39-40; Colossians 4  
October 18 – Isaiah 41-42; 1 Thessalonians 1  
October 19 – Isaiah 43-44; 1 Thessalonians 2

***“How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! Yes, to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.”***

**– Proverbs 16:16**

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, October 13, 2019

Bible Study: Steve

Worship: Darrell

Evening: Larry

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Jeff

### **Cleaning Building**

Cynde

### **Prepare Communion**

Donna

### **Upcoming Reminders**

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

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

### **Assignments**

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Mike

Table: Roger

Serve: Harold

Steve

John

Mark

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Invitation: Mike

### **Anniversaries**

October 27 – Carlyle & Donna

### **Birthdays**

October 20 – Alita

October 21 – Dave

October 22 – Janice

October 23 – Craig

October 29 – Morgan