

November 3, 2019

## Simply Christians

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.

**Acts 11:26:** *And when [Barnabas] had found [Saul], he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*

After His resurrection, Jesus told “**the eleven disciples**” to “**teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you**” (**Matt. 28:16, 19-20**).

The apostles carried out this mission in the book of Acts. They did not teach people to follow man-made traditions or doctrines, but taught *Jesus’* commands.

Barnabas and Saul (Paul) taught Christ’s message to people in Antioch, and in **Acts 11:26**, God referred to those who heeded Christ’s doctrine as Christians.

In the New Testament, the qualification for being a Christian is not following man’s rules, but rather following the Word of Christ (**Col. 3:16**). The apostles did at times encourage people to be followers of themselves, but only inasmuch as they followed Jesus (see **1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Thess. 1:6**).

# Simply Christians

(Continued)

When Paul was tried before King Agrippa, Paul did not attempt to persuade Agrippa to believe his own opinions and ideas. Rather, Agrippa told him, “***Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian***” (Acts 26:28).

To those who claimed to be of Paul, he asked, “***Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?***” (1 Cor. 1:13b).

Following fallible men leads to divisions and many different ideas about right and wrong (1 Cor. 1:11-12). It is when we obey Christ that we become united through the Gospel (see Gal. 3:26-28).

Consider the application of this principle today. What would God say of the thousands of “denominations” and “sects” that exist? “***Is Christ divided?***” (1 Cor. 1:13a).

What would God say of the “creeds” that have been penned by men as guidelines in religious matters? Has God not given us “***all things that pertain unto life and godliness***” (2 Pet. 1:3)? Is His Scripture not “***profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works***” (2 Tim. 3:16-17)?

God did not call those meeting at Antioch “Paulians.” The group didn’t follow “Barnabas’ Official Creed.” Such might seem odd, yet this is similar to what is often done today.

The Bible is full of examples of men who thought their ideas and opinions should be followed instead of God’s. This was shown to be folly (see Prov. 14:12).

There *are* some individuals though who do not bear the name of a man-made denomination, but simply aim to be Christians. There *are* some individuals who do not religiously follow doctrines or creeds from the minds of fallible men, but simply aim to follow Christ’s Word.

This is the pattern the Holy Spirit through inspired men taught in the New Testament. The Christians at Antioch were simply a local group of followers of Christ, who made decisions independent of other local churches, with Christ’s Word at the head of those decisions.

They had little of the things that people consider impressive in churches today, yet they were referred to in the New Testament as Christians.

Instead of belonging to a denomination or sect designed by fallible men, may we simply submit to Christ’s terms for being a Christian, a part of the Lord’s church.

## Area Gospel Meetings

Casey Westside Church of Christ:

Nov. 7 – 10 (with Kent Heaton)

Thurs-Fri: 7:00; Sat: 6:00; Sun: 9:30; 10:20; 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

***“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he will be as a tree planted by the waters, who spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes, but its leaf will be green, and will not be concerned in the year of drought. It won’t cease from yielding fruit.” – Jeremiah 17:7-8***

## 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)
- Jeff D
- Betty H (Cancer)

## Daily Bible Reading

- November 3 – Jeremiah 18-19; 2 Timothy 3
- November 4 – Jeremiah 20-21; 2 Timothy 4
- November 5 – Jeremiah 22-23; Titus 1
- November 6 – Jeremiah 24-26; Titus 2
- November 7 – Jeremiah 27-29; Titus 3
- November 8 – Jeremiah 30-31; Philemon
- November 9 – Jeremiah 32-33; Hebrews 1

***“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”***  
– Romans 10:17

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, November 3, 2019

Bible Study: Carlyle

Worship: John

Evening: Harold

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Michael

### **Clean Building**

Deb

### **Prepare Communion**

Deb

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Nov. 23: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.**

*Study: Redeeming the Land (Ruth 4:1-6) &*

*"Take Off Your Sandal" (Ruth 4:7-12)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, November 10, 2019

Reading: Jeff

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Mike

Serve: Steve

Dave

Dan H

Darrell

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Invitation: Travis

### **Anniversaries**

November 20 – Mike & Rowena

### **Birthdays**

November 6 – Lindsay

November 13 – Misty

November 20 – Patsy

November 21 – Tretyn

November 25 – Mason

November 27 – Roger