

November 24, 2019

## “He is Risen”

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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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.

Following Jesus' crucifixion, He was buried, and his tomb was closely guarded (**Matt. 27:62-66**). While the extra security prevented any possibility of Jesus' body being stolen by His disciples, it did not stop God from raising His Son from the dead.

As an angel said to Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus, ***“Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, even as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay”*** (**Matt. 28:5-6**).

Following His resurrection, Christ appeared to His apostles and over five hundred brethren at once (**1 Cor. 15:5-8**). He was on earth for forty days after His resurrection (**Acts 1:3**), before ascending back into heaven (**verse 9**).

Jesus' resurrection had a significant impact on His apostles (cf. **John 20:28**). Festus reported that the apostle Paul's enemies ***“had certain questions against him of their own religion, and of one Jesus, who was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive”*** (**Acts 25:19**).

Through God's written Word, we can have the faith in Christ's resurrection that His apostles did (**John 20:29-31**).

The truth of Jesus' resurrection gives the righteous hope of being raised to spend eternity in heaven with Him (**1 Thes. 4:14**).

May we appreciate Christ's resurrection, and submit to His terms for being raised to eternal life (**Heb. 5:9**).

# Enduring Persecution

By Michael Hickox

**2 Timothy 3:10-12: *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.***

Persecution is unpleasant but inevitable for Christians. Jesus told His disciples in **John 15:20**, “***if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;***”

Physical persecution was common for early Christians. After Paul’s conversion, he was “***in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft***” (**2 Cor. 11:23**). He said, “***Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;***” (verses 24-25).

We should remember, though, that persecution is not always physical. When Jesus said, “***Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake***” (**Matt. 5:11**), He referenced *mental* persecution.

Christians are often ridiculed. The

tenderheartedness of the meek and lowly can lead to oppression from the proud and greedy. Standing for the truth often angers those whose choices defy it (**Gal. 4:16**). Persecution can include being “made fun of,” falsely accused, or “un-befriended.”

Jesus summarized the cause of His disciples’ persecution in **John 15:19**: ***If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.***

In the parable of the sower, Jesus said that the person who receives seed in “***stony places***”...that is, the one who has a shallow faith...will fall away when persecuted (**Matt. 13:20-21**). We must have a faith that *endures* persecution.

Enduring persecution is made easier when we remember God’s promises.

While it is hard to consider oneself blessed when persecuted for faithfulness to Christ (**Matt. 5:11**), those who face this please God (**1 Pet. 4:14**), and those who endure will receive an eternal home in heaven (**Rev. 2:10**). The temporary suffering Christians face is “***not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us***” (**Rom. 8:18**).

May this hope anchor us as we live godly lives in Christ and remain faithful to the Lord, no matter how difficult that may be.

## 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

***“Put on therefore, as God’s elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye: and above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful.” – Colossians 3:12-15***

## 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  
Ken & Chris F  
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)  
Jeff D  
Betty H (Cancer)  
June's Niece, Debbie  
Roger H (Heart Surgery)

## Daily Bible Reading

November 24 – Ezekiel 11-13; James 1  
November 25 – Ezekiel 14-15; James 2  
November 26 – Ezekiel 16-17; James 3  
November 27 – Ezekiel 18-19; James 4  
November 28 – Ezekiel 20-21; James 5  
November 29 – Ezekiel 22-23; 1 Peter 1  
November 30 – Ezekiel 24-26; 1 Peter 2

***“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” – Psalm 119:105***

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, November 24, 2019

Bible Study: Travis

Worship: Jim

Evening: Dave

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Dan D

### **Clean Building**

Deb

### **Prepare Communion**

Deb

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Dec. 28: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.**

*Study: The Genealogy (Ruth 4:13-22)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Reading: Dan H

Announcements: Travis

Table: Harold

Serve: Carlyle

Mason

Roger

Dan D

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Invitation: Michael

### **Anniversaries**

December 6 – Steve & Misty

### **Birthdays**

November 25 – Mason

November 27 – Roger

December 3 – Rowena

December 13 – Donna