

January 12, 2020

Love Like Jesus

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
P.O. Box 683
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.

Ephesians 5:2 commands, “*walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling fragrance.*”

By denying His own comforts and perfectly submitting to the Father’s will, Jesus exemplified love for the Father (cf. **1 John 5:3**). Like Our Savior, we must deny ourselves in order to obey the Father’s commands.

Obeying God *includes* showing love to *others* by denying our comforts and pleasures as needed to do what is beneficial for them.

Philippians 2:4 commands “***Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.***” The very next verse says, “***Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus***” (verse 5).

While on earth, Jesus time and again made decisions based on the Father’s will and the needs of others, instead of only considering what was comfortable for Himself. This shows the depth of His command in **John 13:34: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another.***

May we heed this command, and love like our Savior.

Accepting God's Forgiveness

By Michael Hickox

A challenge many struggle with is dealing with past sins.

We must recognize the severity of our sins (**Luke 18:13**), and have godly sorrow that produces repentance (**2 Cor. 7:10**). Once we have done what God requires to have sin forgiven though, that sin becomes a part of our *past* and should be viewed accordingly.

Remembering past sins in ways God desires is important.

Just as Paul was humbled by his past sins (**1 Cor. 15:9**), we too should realize we are nothing without God's grace.

Moreover, the saying "experience is the best teacher" can apply to sins we have committed, helping us not only to teach ourselves, but to warn others.

Remembering sins of the past in ways that haunt us, though, can be destructive.

Doing so can lead an individual to be hesitant to do the work of the Lord, out of fear he or she is not "good enough." It can cause one to be hesitant to speak out against sins, for fear he or she will be a hypocrite. It can "beat one up" internally as the joy, hope, and peace that should exist in the mindset of Christians is replaced with sorrow and anxiety. This is a problem, but it is one God's Word gives answers to.

In **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, the Holy Spirit through Paul warned the church at Corinth about those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. In **verse 11**, He said "***such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.***"

Christianity is not about who we *were*, but who we *are*. If we have done what God requires for sin to be forgiven, we should joyfully accept that forgiveness. We must not take lightly any thoughts of *future* or *present* sin, but *past* sin that has been forgiven should not torment us.

The church that Jesus built is not composed of individuals who have never sinned, but of individuals who know they *have* sinned and have thus come running to the Savior. Jesus is the "great physician" who will spiritually heal any who will submit to His teachings.

We cannot change the past. But we *can* obey God moving forward.

Won't we all make that choice and thus be able to move on from past sins, reaching forth to "***those things which are before,***" and pressing "***toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus***" (Phil. 3:13-14).

Area Gospel Meetings

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:

Jan. 24 – 26 (with Ray Warfel, Jr.)
Fri-Sat: 7:00 PM; Sun: 9:30; 10:30; 5:00

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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

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

– John 3:16-17

Prayer List

- Holly G
- Sandy S
- Betty P
- Mabel H
- Cheryl S
- Norma C
- Allen S (Cancer)
- Raymond & Maxine
- Randy & Kim S
- Ken & Chris F
- Brandon O’s Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
- June’s Niece, Debbie
- Roger H (Heart Surgery)
- Berlyn & Guyla Y
- Jeanette’s Mother, Fontella
- Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

- January 12 – Genesis 20-22; Matt. 6:19-34
- January 13 – Genesis 23-24; Matt. 7
- January 14 – Genesis 25-26; Matt. 8:1-17
- January 15 – Genesis 27-28; Matt. 8:18-34
- January 16 – Genesis 29-30; Matt. 9:1-17
- January 17 – Genesis 31-32; Matt. 9:18-38
- January 18 – Genesis 33-35; Matt. 10:1-20

“I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.”

– Psalm 119:14

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 12, 2020

Bible Study: Darrell

Worship: Larry

Evening: Dan H

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mark

Clean Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Upcoming Reminders

Jan. 25: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Study: Women of the New Testament

Assignments

Sunday, January 19, 2020

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Harold

Table: Dan H

Serve: Mike

Jim

John

Mark

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Invitation: Jeff

Anniversaries

Birthdays

January 15 – Mike

January 17 – Raymond