

July 26, 2020

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
P.O. Box 683  
Olney, IL 62450  
217-218-0803  
[www.olneychurchofchrist.org](http://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.

## When God's Commands "Don't Seem to Make Sense"

In **Genesis 22:2**, God told Abraham, "***Now take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go into the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will tell you of.***"

One might wonder what it would have been like to be Abraham when God told him this. Abraham was to be "***a father of many nations***" (**Gen. 17:5**), and his wife Sarah was to be a "***mother of nations***" (**verse 16**). To see this through, God miraculously caused Sarah, who had been barren, to have a child at an old age. This child, named Isaac, was the one God would establish His covenant with (**Gen. 17:21**). God re-affirmed this in **Genesis 21:12** when He told Abraham "***your offspring will be named through Isaac.***"

Yet in **Genesis 22**, God told Abraham to offer this very son as a sacrifice.

In hindsight, we know that God was testing Abraham and had every intention of keeping Isaac safe (**Gen. 22:12**).

At the time though, this was a command that may have been hard to "make sense of." Yet Abraham obeyed.

Commands such as this are not uncommon in Scripture. God once told Joshua that the Israelites needed to walk around a city once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh

# When God's Commands "Don't Seem to Make Sense"

(Continued)

day in order for the city's walls to be knocked down. When trumpets were blown and the people gave a shout, God told Joshua "***the wall of the city shall fall down flat,***" (Joshua 6:5). It may have seemed hard to figure out how this strategy would work, but Joshua obeyed.

God's messenger later told a leprosy man named Naaman that to cleanse his leprosy he needed to dip in the Jordan river seven times (2 Kings 5:10). We know this did not make sense to Naaman, because he questioned the command and at first rejected it (verses 11-12).

Man in his "wisdom" may not understand how walking around a city and blowing trumpets could knock down city walls, or how dipping oneself in a river could cleanse leprosy. Yet, when God's voice was obeyed, the walls of Jericho fell (Joshua 6:20), and Naaman's leprosy was cured (2 Kings 5:14).

What must be remembered through all of this is that "***as the heavens are higher than the earth,***" so are God's ways higher than our ways and His thoughts higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). When the commands He gives us do not meet our expectations, it is *our* will that must change, rather than His.

God's path, no matter how "strange" it seems to mankind, leads to eternal life (Matt. 7:13-14).

There is a saying that if "God said it, and I believe it, then that settles it." The problem with this statement is that God has said a lot of things that few people believe, yet the matter is still settled. He commands things that "don't seem to make sense" to some and are therefore rejected, yet they are still truth.

When He says that baptism is necessary for one's sins to be washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16), many reason that this can't be right. Like Naaman, who just "knew" that being dipped in water could not be necessary for him to be cleansed, so too have many determined that immersing someone in water could not be a part of God's plan for salvation.

Walking by faith leads to the opposite attitude. It leads to trusting and obeying God at His every word.

Walking by faith will not lead us to do the specific things Abraham, Joshua, or Naaman did in the examples mentioned, but it *will* lead us to obey God's doctrine as taught in the New Testament, regardless of whether it fits our expectations.

May we, like Abraham and Joshua, trust and obey God, even when His commands "don't seem to make sense."

-Michael Hickox

## Area Gospel Meetings

\*Our Gospel Meeting will be  
**August 9-14** with L.A. Stauffer\*

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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

***"It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor, than to divide the plunder with the proud...Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones...One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty; one who rules his spirit, than he who takes a city."***– Proverbs 16:19, 24, 32

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Mabel H  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Maxine  
Ken & Chris F  
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)  
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella  
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)  
Donna G  
Carlyle (Hip)

## Daily Bible Reading

July 26 – 1 Chronicles 13-15; John 7:1-27  
July 27 – 1 Chronicles 16-18; John 7:28-53  
July 28 – 1 Chronicles 19-21; John 8:1-27  
July 29 – 1 Chronicles 22-24; John 8:28-59  
July 30 – 1 Chronicles 25-27; John 9:1-23  
July 31 – 1 Chronicles 28-29; John 9:24-41  
August 1 – 2 Chronicles 1-3; John 10:1-23

***"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, July 26, 2020

Bible Study: Dan D

Worship: Travis

Evening: Jim

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

John

### **Assignments**

Sunday, August 2, 2020

Reading: See

Announcements: Bulletin

Table: Board

Serve:

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Invitation:

### **Clean Building**

Halls (July) / (Aug)

### **Prepare Communion**

Halls (July) / Linda (Aug)

### **Upcoming Reminders**

*\*Our summer Gospel meeting is scheduled  
for August 9-14 with L.A. Stauffer*

### **Anniversaries**

August 15 – Roger & Debbie

### **Birthdays**

August 4 – Steve

August 4 – Mabel

August 5 – Julzy

August 10 – Cheryl

August 11 – Jim

August 19 – Paula

August 24 – Debbie

August 26 – Olivia

August 31 – Stephanie