

August 16, 2020

“Be Sincere”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Olney, IL 62450
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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.

Part of the apostle Paul’s prayer for the Philippians in **Philippians 1:9-11** was that they “*be sincere.*”

Our service to God must not be a mere pretense. There is a stark contrast between the one who “goes through the motions” in his or her service to God and the one whose service to Him is genuine.

This principle applies to specific works that we do in service to God. The scribes and Pharisees Jesus rebuked in **Matthew 23** did “*all their works to be seen by men*” (verse 5). In **Matthew 6**, Jesus rebuked those who use “*vain repetitions*” in public prayer, without meaning what they say (**verses 5-7**). These practices rebuked by Jesus exemplify insincerity.

More generally, our lives must be characterized by a sincere effort to fully surrender our will to God’s. “Acting” the part of a Christian only during the assembly of the saints is a far cry from the *lifestyle* of obedience God commands (**Gal. 2:20**).

May we not be half-hearted in our service to God, but truly “*present [our] bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is [our] reasonable service*” (**Rom. 12:1**).

What Produces Faith?

By Michael Hickox

The Hebrews writer defines faith as “**assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen**” (Heb. 11:1). This definition contrasts the view of “I see it, so I believe it” that some use as the basis for their beliefs.

Paul made the contrast between a belief system based only on what can be seen and the deep faith based on things not seen in **2 Corinthians 5:7** when he says “**we walk by faith, not by sight.**”

No one on earth today has physically seen God or Jesus. Yet, the faithful Christian believes God to be the Creator of the universe and Jesus to be His Son.

Since no one has physically seen God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit, a question one may ask is “How does one obtain faith in God?” How can one have a conviction of things *not seen*?

The answer is in **Romans 10:17**, which says, “**Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.**”

Jesus explained this principle in the parable of the sower (**Matt. 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:4-15**). He also showed in this parable that saving faith is not produced in the heart of *everyone* who hears the Word.

Some individuals refuse to accept all or part of the truth because of hard-heartedness. These are represented in

Jesus’ parable by the seed that fell by the wayside (**Matt. 13:19**).

Some obey the Word initially, but don’t allow the truth to become deeply rooted. Their shallow faith is not enough to endure when faced with persecution. These individuals are represented in Jesus’ parable by the seed that fell in stony places (**verses 20-21**).

Some hear the Word but bear little to no fruit because temporal concerns and endeavors choke out the Word. Such people receive the seed (Word) among thorns (**verse 22**).

When one hears the truth with the *proper* heart, though, the seed will grow and bear much fruit in his or her life (**verse 23**). The Word will cause this person to be transformed into a new creature molded according to God’s will, now living for the glory of our Creator (**Gal. 2:20**).

God has provided the perfect seed to accomplish this. It is up to each of us to provide the “**honest and good heart**” (**Luke 8:15**), and give diligence to study of His perfect Word (**2 Tim. 2:15**).

May each of us make the “soil” what it ought to be, and allow the perfect seed to transform us so that we, like Paul, can rightly say, “**We walk by faith, not by sight.**”

Area Gospel Meetings

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:
Aug 30 – Sep 4 (with Chuck Richardson)
Sun: 9:00, 10:00, 6:00; M-F: 7:00

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

Words to Consider

"The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all."

– Proverbs 22:2

"He who loves silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase: this also is vanity." – Ecclesiastes 5:10

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)
Carlyle (Hip)

Daily Bible Reading

August 16 – Ezra 1-2; John 19:23-42
August 17 – Ezra 3-5; John 20
August 18 – Ezra 6-8; John 21
August 19 – Ezra 9-10; Acts 1
August 20 – Nehemiah 1-3; Acts 2:1-21
August 21 – Nehemiah 4-6; Acts 2:22-47
August 22 – Nehemiah 7-9; Acts 3

"I reach out my hands for your commandments, which I love. I will meditate on your statutes."

– Psalm 119:48

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, August 16, 2020

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: Mike

Evening: Jeff

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Mark

Clean Building

Patty

Prepare Communion

Linda

Upcoming Reminders

Assignments

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Roger

Serve: Steve

Travis

Dan H

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Invitation: Jeff

Anniversaries

Birthdays

August 19 – Paula

August 24 – Debbie

August 26 – Olivia

August 31 – Stephanie