

August 30, 2020

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.

“How Could a Faithful God...”

By Michael Hickox

Among the teachings of Scripture that are sometimes questioned by religious people is the *reality of Hell*. The question might be asked, “How could a faithful God allow people He has created to be tormented for eternity?”

Upon sincere examination of His Word, the better question is, “how could a faithful God *not* do this?”

The word “faithful” has multiple definitions, but generally refers to one who is *trustworthy* (see *Strong G4103*). A faithful individual is one who can be depended on to keep his word.

Scripture is full of proof that no one’s promises can be depended on more than God’s.

Consider the generation of Israelites who entered Canaan. After this generation was taught the Law by Moses, they were promised great rewards if they were obedient to the Law (**Deut. 28:1-14**). They were *also* promised harsh *punishment* if they were *disobedient* (**Deut. 28:15-68**).

The remainder of the Old Testament shows how a *faithful* God followed up on these promises.

“How Could a Faithful God...”

(Continued)

Joshua 6 and 7 shows the contrast between God rewarding the Israelites for their obedience (fall of Jericho) and punishing Israel for disobedience (failure to defeat the men of Ai).

This trend continues throughout the Old Testament with the generations that followed.

God did not “back track” on His promise to reward Jacob’s descendants when they were faithful, but He also held fast to His promise to *punish* them when they were not.

While God’s punishment was often temporal in nature throughout the Old Testament, the key punishment we are warned about in the New Testament is the *eternal* torment of Hell.

Such punishment involves spending eternity with “***the devil and his angels***” (**Matt. 25:41**). Hell is described as a place of “***everlasting punishment***” (**Matt. 25:46**). It is a place where there is a “***fire that never shall be quenched***” (**Mark 9:45**). It is further described as a “***furnace of fire***” where “***there shall be wailing and gnashing***

of teeth” (**Matt. 13:50**).

The one who refuses to believe this truth is not standing up for the faithfulness of God. He is denying it. Our faithful God keeps His promises, including His warnings of judgment against disobedience.

The surety of Hell does not demean the surety of Heaven though. The reasons we can trust that Hell is real are the same reasons we can trust that Heaven is real. “Fire and brimstone” warnings are not intended to discourage, but to promote full surrender to God.

God promises that those who *do* surrender to Him will be blessed with eternal comfort in His presence with the righteous of all ages. His faithfulness *assures* that this promise will be kept.

A faithful God will follow through with *all* that He has promised. This is a wonderful comfort for the obedient, but it is also cause for taking His warnings of punishment seriously. Both Heaven *and* Hell are real.

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

***“O praise the LORD, all ye nations:
praise Him, all ye people. For His
merciful kindness is great toward us:
and the truth of the LORD endureth for
ever. Praise ye the LORD.” – Psalm 117***

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 30 – Job 3-4; Acts 7:44-60
August 31 – Job 5-7; Acts 8:1-25
September 1 – Job 8-10; Acts 8:26-40
September 2 – Job 11-13; Acts 9:1-21
September 3 – Job 14-16; Acts 9:22-43
September 4 – Job 17-19; Acts 10:1-23
September 5 – Job 20-21; Acts 10:24-48

***“You have commanded your statutes
in righteousness. They are fully
trustworthy.” – Psalm 119:138***

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, August 30, 2020

Bible Study: John

Worship: Jeff

Evening: Steve

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Carlyle

Assignments

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Reading: Dave

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Harold

Serve: Steve

Mark

Clean Building

Patty (Aug) / Cynde (Sep)

Prepare Communion

Linda (Aug) / Julzy (Sep)

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Invitation: Michael

Upcoming Reminders

Anniversaries

September 3 – Dan & Lovetta

Birthdays

August 31 – Stephanie

September 2 – Dan H

September 15 – Emory

September 20 – Michael