

September 20, 2020

Overcoming Our Past

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

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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.

A challenge many Christians struggle with is dealing with past sins.

We must recognize the severity of our sins (cf. **Luke 18:13**), have godly sorrow (**2 Cor. 7:10**), and do what God requires for sins we have committed to be forgiven. Once we *have* done what God requires to be 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. Remembering sins we have committed should help us show compassion toward individuals who struggle with things we once did. Furthermore, 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

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(Continued)

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 provides answers to.

Apart from Jesus, every person who has reached a point of accountability before God has sinned (**Rom. 3:23**).

Saul of Tarsus, for instance, was guilty of persecuting Christians (**Acts 9:1-2**).

He later became a faithful apostle, and was inspired to write about half of the New Testament. Though his past caused Paul to view himself as the "**chief**" of sinners (**1 Tim. 1:15**), he was useful to God because he *changed*.

In **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, the Holy Spirit through Paul warned about those who will not inherit God's kingdom. 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 a sin to be forgiven, why dwell on the harm it caused? We do not want to take lightly any thoughts of *future* sin or *present* sin, but *past* sin that has been forgiven should not torment us.

The church that Jesus built is composed not of individuals who have never sinned, but of individuals who know they *have* sinned and therefore need a Savior to escape eternal punishment.

He is the "great physician" who will spiritually heal *any* who will submit to His teachings (**Luke 5:32**).

"God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" to give eternal life (**Titus 1:2**) to those who come to Him on His terms. If we reject this out of worry we have done too horribly to be forgiven, we deny the gift Jesus gave His life for.

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

Won't we all make that choice and proclaim with Paul ***"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief"*** (1 Timothy 1:15).

Won't we forget "***those things which are behind***", and reach forth to "***those things which are before***", pressing "***toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus***" (**Philippians 3:13-14**).

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

“We exhort you, brothers: Admonish the disorderly; encourage the faint-hearted; support the weak; be patient toward all. See that no one returns evil for evil to anyone, but always follow after that which is good for one another and for all. Always rejoice. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you.”

– 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

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)
Heather's Friend, Courtney
Roger H

Daily Bible Reading

September 20 – Psa. 16-17; Acts 20:1-16
September 21 – Psa. 18-19; Acts 20:17-38
September 22 – Psa. 20-22; Acts 21:1-17
September 23 – Psa. 23-25; Acts 21:18-40
September 24 – Psa. 26-28; Acts 22
September 25 – Psa. 29-30; Acts 23:1-15
September 26 – Psa. 31-32; Acts 23:16-35

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

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Bible Study: Mark

Worship: Roger

Evening: Mike

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Douglas

Assignments

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Reading: Jeff

Announcements: Dave

Table: Mark

Serve: John

Jim

Clean Building

Cynde

Prepare Communion

June / July

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Invitation: Mike

Upcoming Reminders

Anniversaries

October 6 – Travis & Jessica

October 11 – Mike & Paula

October 27 – Carlyle & Donna

Birthdays

September 20 – Michael

October 2 – Carlyle

October 4 – Norma

October 20 – Alita

October 21 – Dave

October 22 – Janice

October 23 – Craig

October 29 – Morgan