

October 18, 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.

Knowing the Shepherd's Voice

By Michael Hickox

John 10:2-4: *But one who enters in [the sheep fold] by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. Whenever he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*

These verses show us two ways in which Jesus, as our Shepherd, leads us. One is by going before us (His example). The other is by His *voice* (through His Word). As Jesus said, “**the sheep listen to [the shepherd's] voice.**”

While sheep follow the voice of the true shepherd, the sheep “**will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him; for they don't know the voice of strangers**” (John 10:5).

To be spiritually safe and secure, we must, like literal sheep, distinguish the voice of the true shepherd from that of false shepherds. In other words, we must discern between *Christ's* doctrine, as taught in Scripture, and *false* doctrine.

Such discernment requires persistent study, and approaching Scripture with a “**good and honest heart**” (Luke 8:15). It involves hungering and thirsting for righteousness (**Matt. 5:6**), with a sincere desire to know and do what pleases God.

May we have such a zeal for the Word of our perfect Shepherd and Guide.

“Except”

By Michael Hickox

The word “except” appears approximately 74 times in the King James Version of the Bible. This word generally indicates that unless one thing is true, something else cannot be.

For example, in **John 3:2**, Nicodemus correctly stated that no one could do the miracles Jesus was doing “**except God be with Him.**” Jesus responded by saying “**except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God**” (**John 3:3**). After Nicodemus asked how one could be born again, Jesus answered “**Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God**” (verse 5).

Unless we undergo a spiritual rebirth, we cannot enter God’s kingdom. This rebirth takes place at the point of baptism, and involves “putting off” the old life of sin and walking in “***newness of life***” (**Rom. 6:3-4**).

Walking in “***newness of life***” involves repentance. In **Luke 13:3**, Jesus, in reference to certain Galileans, said “**except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**”

Biblical repentance is a change of *will* that results in a change of actions and words. It involves a choice to turn from sin in submission to God. **Except** we repent, we will be doomed (cf. **Rev. 2:5, 22**).

Eternal life in heaven will also not happen **except** we humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand.

In **Matthew 18**, Jesus was asked who was

“greatest” in the kingdom of heaven. He set a child in the midst of His disciples, and said “**Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven**” (verse 3). True conversion involves, among other things, becoming like little children in humble recognition of our dependence on our Father (cf. **Matt. 18:4**).

As we turn to our Father, we must remember that pleasing Him goes deeper than looking righteous in the eyes of others. In **Matthew 5:20**, Jesus said “**Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**”

These scribes and Pharisees were religious to a degree, but not pleasing to God. What works they did were motivated by a desire for recognition (**Matt. 23:5**). Many of the works they bound on others they did not even keep (**Matt. 23:2-4**). What is more, they commanded works to be done that did not come from God, but were merely traditions (**Matt. 15:9**).

Except our service is sincere and doctrinally pure, unlike these Jewish leaders, we will not enter heaven.

Being a part of God’s kingdom now and dwelling with Him in heaven eternally has requirements. **Except** we submit to these, we will not be saved.

Area Gospel Meetings

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:
Oct 18 – 23 (with J.R. Bronger)
Sun: 9:30, 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

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with God’s trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever.” – 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

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
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H

Daily Bible Reading

October 18 – Psa. 87-88; Romans 13
October 19 – Psa. 89-90; Romans 14
October 20 – Psa. 91-93; Romans 15:1-13
October 21 – Psa. 94-96; Romans 15:14-33
October 22 – Psa. 97-99; Romans 16
October 23 – Psa. 100-102; 1 Corinthians 1
October 24 – Psa. 103-104; 1 Corinthians 2

“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” – Psalm 119:103

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Bible Study: Jeff

Worship: Mark

Evening: Roger

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Mike

Assignments

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Reading: Dan H

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Travis

Serve: Jeff

Roger

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Invitation: Travis

Clean Building

Julzy

Prepare Communion

Julzy

Upcoming Reminders

Anniversaries

October 27 – Carlyle & Donna

Birthdays

October 20 – Alita

October 21 – Dave

October 22 – Janice

October 23 – Craig

October 29 – Morgan