

October 25, 2020

## “Follow After...”

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.

After warning against several sins at the beginning of **1 Timothy 6**, the inspired apostle Paul commands Timothy, “***But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness*** (verse 11). Consider some things Scripture teaches related to the six virtues commanded in this verse.

The first thing the verse commands following after is *righteousness*.

We must “***hunger and thirst***” for righteousness (**Matt. 5:6**), which denotes a zealous *longing for* and *pursuit of* righteousness. We should have a strong spiritual appetite, and earnestly strive to *be* right with God by *learning* and *doing* what He says is right (cf. **1 Pet. 2:2**).

The second thing **1 Timothy 6:11** says we must follow after is *godliness*.

Godliness does not necessarily mean “godlikeness,” though there *are* some characteristics of God we should strive to emulate. Its foremost meaning, though, is *reverence* toward God. To receive God’s guidance, we must accept His authority to tell us what to do (**Prov. 1:7**). This is what godliness is about.

**1 Timothy 6:11** also notes *faith* as something we must follow after.

The way Scripture often speaks of faith is defined in **Hebrews 11:1**, which says, “***faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.***”

## “Follow After...”

(Continued)

This “**conviction of things not seen**” is not baseless, but is grounded on the Creator’s Word (**Rom. 10:17**).

God has supplied the perfect Seed that produces faith (His Word), and when that Seed falls into “**an honest and good heart**” (**Luke 8:15**), faith is produced. Thus, building faith requires preparing one’s heart to receive the truth, and feeding one’s soul with the spiritual nourishment of God’s Word.

Those who do this develop an unwavering *trust* in God that leads to unwavering *obedience* to Him (cf. **Rom. 1:5; 16:26**).

“Faithfulness” can also refer to being reliable or *trustworthy*. God is the perfect example of this (**1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13**), and we must be dependable in our service to Him.

**1 Timothy 6:11** also commands *love*.

The word translated “**love**” in this verse (*agape*) is far deeper than that which one unintentionally “falls” into or out of. *Agape* love is a *deliberate choice* to seek others’ highest good. It involves *selflessness* and *sacrifice*, and is proven by *action*.

There is no greater example of love than that which God provided in the sending of His Son (**1 John 4:10**). Given the love God has shown toward us, we ought to love others (**1 John 4:11**), and love *Him*.

Loving God involves truly putting His will ahead of our own. This love is *proven* by *obedience* to God’s commands (**1 John 5:3**).

A fifth virtue **1 Timothy 6:11** commands following after is *patience*.

The word for “**patience**” could also be translated “**perseverance**” (*WEB*) or “**steadfastness**” (*ESV*). This sheds light on the biblical concept of patience. It involves *constancy* in doing right, especially through trials (cf. **2 Thes. 1:4**).

The opposite of patience is seen in Jesus’ parable of the sower, with the seed that fell in rocky places (i.e. shallow, shaky faith that stumbles when trials come) (**Luke 8:13**). Seed that falls on good ground, by contrast, is stable, bringing “**forth fruit with patience**” (**Luke 8:15**).

The final thing **1 Timothy 6:11** commands following after is *meekness*.

Though meekness is often viewed as *weakness*, Scripture describes meekness as a *strength*. It is related to humility, gentleness, and proper submission.

In many ways, meekness is the opposite of being *self-assertive*. The hymn *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* expresses the attitude of meekness well. Meekness accepts God as our Master and yields to His guidance (**James 1:21**), while treating others humbly and gently (cf. **Titus 3:2**).

The words “**follow after**” precede the six virtues commanded in **1 Timothy 6:11**. Scripture opposes the idea that “people can’t change who they are.” Each of us *can* and *must* change as God desires, but it does not happen by accident. We must *purposely* follow righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness.

## Area Gospel Meetings

Northwest Church of Christ:  
Nov 1 – 6 (with Jerid Gunter)  
Sun: 9:00, 10:00, 4:00; M-F: 7:00

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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

***“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,  
and into His courts with praise: be  
thankful unto Him, and bless His name.  
For the LORD is good; His mercy is  
everlasting; and His truth endureth to all  
generations.” – Psalm 100:4-5***

## 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 25 – Psa. 105-106; 1 Cor. 3  
October 27 – Psa. 107-109; 1 Cor. 4  
October 27 – Psa. 110-112; 1 Cor. 5  
October 28 – Psa. 113-115; 1 Cor. 6  
October 29 – Psa. 116-118; 1 Cor. 7:1-19  
October 30 – Psa. 119:1-88; 1 Cor. 7:20-40  
October 31 – Psa. 119:89-176; 1 Cor. 8

***“Thou art my hiding place and my  
shield: I hope in thy Word.”  
– Psalm 119:114***

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Bible Study: Douglas

Worship: Jim

Evening: Travis

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Dan D

### **Assignments**

Sunday, November 1, 2020

Reading: Steve

Announcements: Travis

Table: Darrell

Serve: John

Jim

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Invitation: Dave

### **Clean Building**

Julzy (Oct) / Misty (Nov)

### **Prepare Communion**

Julzy (Oct) / Donna (Nov)

### **Upcoming Reminders**

### **Anniversaries**

October 27 – Carlyle & Donna  
November 20 – Mike & Rowena

### **Birthdays**

October 29 – Morgan  
November 6 – Lindsay  
November 13 – Misty  
November 20 – Patsy  
November 21 – Tretyn  
November 25 – Mason  
November 27 – Roger