

December 27, 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.

## Earthly Possessions in 1 Timothy 6

Consider seven biblical truths about earthly possessions, each of which is taught by the Holy Spirit in **1 Timothy 6**.

1) Godliness is Not a "Means of Gain": A characteristic of the sinner mentioned in **1 Timothy 6:3-5** is that he supposes "***that godliness is a means of gain.***"

Some teach that Christianity is a blueprint for being (materially) wealthier than those around us. This is sometimes referred to as the "prosperity gospel." Such false teaching leads to undervaluing the *true* riches one has in Christ.

What is ironic about the "prosperity gospel" is that the One CHRISTianity is founded upon was at times poor during His earthly ministry (cf. **Luke 9:58**).

While *some* of Christ's disciples are materially rich (**Matt 27:57**), not nearly all are (cf. **2 Cor. 11:27**). Christianity is not a recipe for becoming wealthy.

2) Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain: After stating the error of those who suppose "***that godliness is a means of gain,***" the inspired apostle "turned the tables" to show how godliness and "***gain***" are connected. Notice **1 Timothy 6:6**: ***But godliness with contentment is great gain.***

Those who are godly and content with however much or however little they have (**Phil. 4:11-12**) gain *spiritual* riches through Christ. These riches cannot be

# Earthly Possessions in 1 Timothy 6

(Continued)

measured with dollar signs (cf. **Rev. 2:9**).

3) Beware of Covetousness: The Holy Spirit went on in **1 Timothy 6** to stress the need for contentment and dangers of covetousness (**verses 7-10**).

Covetous individuals include "**those who are determined to be rich**" (1 Tim. 6:9). Covetousness is idolatry (**Col. 3:5**). It is in many ways the opposite of contentment.

Such coveting demonstrates a distorted view of life. As Jesus said in **Luke 12**, "**Beware! Keep yourselves from covetousness, for a man's life doesn't consist of the abundance of the things which he possesses**" (verse 15).

4) Do Not Be Haughty: After speaking about those who "**are determined to be rich**" in **1 Timothy 6:9-10**, the Holy Spirit gave a charge for those who "**are rich in this present world**" in **verses 17-19**. He first warned against haughtiness.

Like King Nebuchadnezzar, one can be tempted to become arrogant upon acquiring earthly riches (cf. **Dan. 4:30**). As Nebuchadnezzar learned, yielding to this temptation is foolish (**Dan. 4:31-33**).

5) Trust in God (Not Things): Another charge given to those rich in this world is to not "**have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on the living God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy**" (1 Tim. 6:17).

Riches can be *here* one day and *gone*

the next. They are fleeting. God is the One in whom we must put our trust.

6) Be "Rich in Good Works": While those who are rich in this world are not condemned for being such, they are commanded to be something more important in **1 Timothy 6:18**: rich in *good works*. God exhorts "**that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate;**"

7) Lay Up Treasure in Heaven: The Holy Spirit finished His charge for the rich by saying in **verse 19**: **laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life.**"

Material blessings can be enjoyed, and we should be thankful for them.

Such should not be what our *hope* is built on though. Earthly riches should not be what we *treasure*. Possessions should not be our primary pursuit in life. Hope for the Christian should rest in the *eternal* reward God promises the faithful.

While riches do not make us better or worse than others, our *attitudes* toward riches affect how pleasing we are to God. Whether we have a lot or a little, may we have the right attitudes toward earthly possessions.

-Michael Hickox

## 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

***“Finally, all of you be like-minded, compassionate, loving as brothers, tenderhearted, courteous, not rendering evil for evil, or insult for insult; but instead blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For, ‘He who would love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good. Let him seek peace and pursue it.”***

– 1 Peter 3:8-11

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Mabel H  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Maxine  
Ken & Chris F  
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella  
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)  
Carlyle (Hip)  
Heather's Friend, Courtney  
Barbara G (Cancer)  
June H  
Mike D (COVID recovery)  
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)  
Roger & Family  
Jeanette's Grandson, Oliver

## Daily Bible Reading

December 27 – Isaiah 65-66; 1 Timothy 2  
December 28 – Jeremiah 1-2; 1 Timothy 3  
December 29 – Jeremiah 3-5; 1 Timothy 4  
December 30 – Jeremiah 6-8; 1 Timothy 5  
December 31 – Jeremiah 9-11; 1 Timothy 6  
January 1 – Jeremiah 12-14; 2 Timothy 1  
January 2 – Jeremiah 15-17; 2 Timothy 2

***“...receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls.”*** – James 1:21

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Bible Study: Travis

Worship: Dan D

Evening:

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

### **Assignments**

Sunday, January 3, 2020

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Dave

Table: Mark

Serve: Travis

Jeff

Wednesday, January 6, 2020

Invitation:

### **Clean Building**

Paula (Dec) / Jeanette (Jan)

### **Prepare Communion**

Paula (Dec) / Jeanette (Jan)

### **Upcoming Reminders**

*\*Sunday afternoon services and Wednesday*

*evening Bible classes are temporarily*

*suspended, due to effects of COVID*

### **Anniversaries**

January 1 – Jerry & Sandy

January 3 – Dave & Donna

### **Birthdays**

January 9 – Maxine

January 9 – Douglas

January 10 – Cynde

January 15 – Mike

January 17 – Raymond