

February 7, 2021

“For Such a Time as This”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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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.

Esther 4:14 records part of a message sent to Esther by her cousin Mordecai: ***For if you remain silent now, then relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Who knows if you haven’t come to the kingdom for such a time as this?***

Mordecai’s statement implies his recognition of God’s providence being at work. His message was “look at the influence you have. You might be in the best position to save our people!” Indeed, Esther *had* come to the kingdom “***for such a time as [then],***” to be an unlikely deliverer for those who, at the time, were God’s chosen people.

Esther’s situation is not the first in which God brought about good through seemingly unlikely circumstances (cf. **Gen. 50:20**).

Like those of old, God’s people today could be in situations that unwittingly provide us with great opportunities to do good for the Lord.

May we look to do good in all the situations we find ourselves in. Who knows...God may have placed us there “***for such a time as this.***”

“The First and Great Commandment”

By Michael Hickox

When Jesus was asked, “**Master, which is the great commandment in the law?**” (Matt. 22:36), He said “**Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.**” He went on to add that the “**second**” is to love others as ourselves (verses 37-39).

The “**first and great commandment**” is probably among the best-known and least-practiced of our Lord’s commands. God did not leave it up to us to decide how to “love” Him. He defines for us what genuine love for Him is.

1 John 5:3 says “**For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.**” The verse before says “**by this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments.**” In John 14:15, Jesus said “**If ye love me, keep my commandments.**”

In other words, the love God demands from us involves surrendering our will to His, so that His instruction becomes the guide of our lives.

It involves shaping our lives around what pleases Him rather than what pleases self. It demands change, sacrifice, and hard work.

The apostle Paul expressed true love for God in **Galatians 2:20**, when he said, “**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.**”

This is much more demanding than the superficial view of loving God that is more about “serving” Him however we’d like.

Yet, it is the only appropriate way to respond to what He has done for us. When we consider the great “**mercies of God**,” how can we respond any other way but to present our “**bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God**” (Rom. 12:1)?

Surrendering wholeheartedly to Him will never “earn” the salvation He offers by His grace. But such wholehearted surrender is the reasonable way to answer the Gospel message, which centers on the love God has shown us by sending His Son to die (Rom. 5:8).

We must give our lives to the One who gave His life for us (cf. 2 Cor. 5:15). This is what love for God is all about. Understanding this sheds much light on why our Lord said, “**This is the first and great commandment.**”

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

"If there is therefore any exhortation in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions, make full my joy, that ye be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; doing nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others. Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 2:1-5

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
Roger S
Jeanette's Grandson, Oliver
L.A. S (COVID recovery)
Justice G (Perthes disease)

Daily Bible Reading

February 7 – Ezekiel 45-46; 1 John 2
February 8 – Ezekiel 47-48 1 John 3
February 9 – Daniel 1-2; 1 John 4
February 10 – Daniel 3-4; 1 John 5
February 11 – Daniel 5-7; 2 John
February 12 – Daniel 8-10; 3 John
February 13 – Daniel 11-12; Jude

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
– 1 Corinthians 1:18

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Bible Study: Carlyle

Worship: John

Evening:

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Assignments

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Reading: Harold

Announcements: Mike

Table: Dan H

Serve: Steve

Travis

Clean Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Invitation:

Upcoming Reminders

**Sunday afternoon services and Wednesday*

evening Bible classes are temporarily

suspended, due to effects of COVID

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 13 – Darrell

February 15 – Dan D

February 20 – Jeff

February 23 – Larry

February 28 – Donna G

February 28 – Sandy