

March 28, 2021

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.

Attitudes That Hinder Repentance

By Michael Hickox

In **Acts 2**, the apostle Peter preached to Jews who were filled with guilt over what they had done to Jesus. These Jews asked the apostles, “***Men and brethren, what shall we do?***” (verse 37).

In response, “***Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost***” (verse 38).

In this verse, the Holy Spirit through Peter set forth commands that must be followed in order for one to become a Christian and receive forgiveness of sins. *One* thing commanded was “***Repent.***”

Later, in **Acts 8**, a man named Simon heard this same message, and became a Christian (verse 13). After becoming a Christian though, Simon sinned against God (verses 18-19). The inspired apostle then commanded him, “***Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee***” (verse 22).

Once again, “***repent***” was part of God’s requirement for sin to be forgiven.

The point is that in order to receive forgiveness of any sin, *part* of what we must do is *repent* (turn in the opposite direction of sin).

There are a number of excuses made to avoid repentance. Consider some attitudes that hinder repentance, and the answers to these provided in the Word:

Attitudes That Hinder Repentance

(Continued)

Ignoring the Seriousness of Sin:

Some fail to repent because they do not recognize how serious sin is. **Romans 6:23** says “*the wages of sin is death.*” Sin, if continued in, leads one to eternity in “*everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels*” (**Matt. 25:41**).

Some take sin lightly because they compare themselves to other people instead of comparing themselves to God’s will. The thought is, “Everybody sins and my sin is no worse than anyone else’s.”

While it is true that many people are living in sin, it is also true that “*many*” are following the broad path that leads to destruction (**Matt. 7:13-14**). If we desire to be the “*few*” who receive eternal life, we must measure things by God’s will. When we do so, we will realize that sin is despicable.

“Sweeping Sin Under the Rug”:

Another pitfall to avoid is the idea that if no one finds out about a sin, it is not a big deal.

After David committed adultery with Bathsheba, instead of acknowledging his sin and repenting, David tried to “sweep it under the rug.” He told lies and eventually ordered an innocent man to be put to death, all in an attempt to “cover up” sin that could never really be “covered up.”

The end of **2 Samuel 11** states “*the thing that David had done displeased the Lord*” (**verse 27**). As this verse exemplifies, there is no sin hidden from God (**Heb. 4:13**).

“Attacking the Messenger”:

Some fail to repent because their focus is on the faults of the messenger pointing out sin, rather than the message he proclaims. Many “attack the messenger” for speaking words that could lead them to eternal life (**Gal. 4:16**).

This is a surefire way to ensure that we will not allow ourselves to be helped when repentance is needed in our lives.

Fearing Rejection:

Some may fail to repent for fear of being rejected by others (cf. **John 12:43**).

Jesus stated “*He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me*” (**Matt. 10:37**), implying that being His disciple often involves making choices that anger others. We must not fail to repent for fear of what others will think.

Procrastinating:

Still others fail to repent because they do not have the sense of urgency needed to do so. The belief is that repentance is something to do “down the road.”

This attitude pretends to know more about the future than God has revealed. None of us know how many more days we have on earth, or even how much longer the earth will exist (**Matt. 24:36**).

When sin is in our lives, may we repent, and not be hindered by these attitudes.

Area Gospel Meetings

Casey Westside church of Christ:
April 11-15 (with John Gentry)
Sun: 10:30, 6:00; Mon-Thurs: 7:00

*Our Gospel Meeting will be **April 18-23** with Wayne Walker (see flyers for topics)*

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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

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will not be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" – John 6:35

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
L.A. S (COVID recovery)
Justice G (Perthes disease)
Robert C

Daily Bible Reading

March 28 – Exodus 16-18; Matthew 18
March 29 – Exodus 19-20; Matthew 19
March 30 – Exodus 21-23; Matthew 20:1-16
March 31 – Exodus 24-26; Matthew 20:17-34
April 1 – Exodus 27-28; Matthew 21:1-22
April 2 – Exodus 29-30; Matthew 21:23-46
April 3 – Exodus 31-33; Matthew 22:1-22

"Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" – John 6:68

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Bible Study: Dan D
Worship: Douglas
Evening: Jim

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Assignments

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Reading: Travis
Announcements: Steve
Table: Darrell
Serve: Jeff
John

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Invitation: Larry

Clean Building

Patty

Prepare Communion

Julzy

Anniversaries

March 28 – John & Cynde
April 9 – David & Janice

Birthdays

April 25 – Jessica
April 29 – Emily
April 29 – Jerry

Upcoming Reminders

April 18-23: Gospel Meeting
(with Wayne Walker)