

April 25, 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.

## Baptism: A Two-Sided Coin

By Michael Hickox

Many in the religious world teach that baptism is not necessary for salvation. God teaches otherwise.

Jews on the Day of Pentecost were told by the Lord's apostle, "**Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**" (Acts 2:38). Before becoming a Christian, Saul of Tarsus was told by Christ's messenger, "**Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord**" (Acts 22:16). Baptism is necessary for one to get "**into Christ**" (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27), and is thus necessary for salvation (1 Pet. 3:21).

While we must not de-emphasize the necessity placed by God on baptism, we must not make baptism out to be something that it's not.

For instance, God does not teach that baptism gives one an excuse for choosing to live in *unrepentant* sin.

Notice that in **Acts 2:38**, the command "**Repent**" is connected to the forgiveness of sins, just as baptism is. If one is baptized but does not repent, he or she is not promised salvation.

Moreover, baptism is not the "finish line," but the "starting point" in our walk with Christ. Upon being baptized, we must steadfastly submit to Christ's commands (**Acts 2:42**). If we fail to do this, we can fall "**away from grace**" (Gal. 5:4).

# The Rich Man and Lazarus

By Michael Hickox

**Luke 16:19-31** contains the familiar account of the “*rich man*” (**verse 19**) and a “*beggar named Lazarus*” (**verse 20**).

While on earth, the rich man had many temporal comforts (**verse 19**), while Lazarus had it rough (**verses 20-21**).

The tables were turned, though, when the two died. **Verses 22-31** give perhaps the most detailed picture in Scripture of the Hadean realm, which departed souls enter while awaiting the Day of Judgment. These verses speak of Lazarus being in “*Abraham’s bosom*” (**verse 22**), a term that shows the comfort Lazarus enjoyed there (cf. **verse 25**). The rich man, on the other hand, was in a part of Hades referred to as “*torments*” (**verse 23**; cf. **verse 28**). This term demonstrates the anguish suffered by those in it (cf. **verse 25**).

The rich man was in so much pain that he asked for Lazarus to “*dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool [his] tongue*” (**verse 24**). He wished some things could change when his soul was in torment. He was told by Abraham, though, that there is a “*great gulf fixed*” between those in comfort and those in torment, and no one can pass from one side to the other (**Luke 16:26**). He was further shown that opportunities to exhort his family to prepare for physical death had ceased (**verses 27-31**).

This passage gives us a striking portrait of how different things truly are from how they

often appear. While the rich man appeared to “have it made” during his time on earth, the poor beggar was truly in a far better state than him. Notice the contrast brought out in **verse 25**. There Abraham told the rich man, “*Son, remember that you, in your lifetime, received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But here he is now comforted, and you are in anguish.*”

The rich man wasn’t wrong for being materially wealthy, but his riches profited him nothing when his time on earth ended. On the other hand, Lazarus may have been deemed a failure by the world. He had little of what most consider to be important. Yet, by pleasing God, Lazarus had far greater riches than anything the world can offer (cf. **1 Tim. 6:6**; **Rev. 2:9**).

This passage also demonstrates the “time limit” God has given for us to obey Him. When we pass away or Judgment Day comes (whichever occurs first), it will be too late to change our fate. Wishing, like the rich man, to modify our fate, will do no good. What *will* do us good is to prepare, like Lazarus, while there is time.

The account of the rich man and Lazarus helps us understand what is truly important. During our relatively brief time on earth (cf. **James 4:14**), may we live in such a way that we will be comforted, and not tormented, when our souls depart.

## 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

## Prayer List

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

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## Words to Consider

***“We exhort you, brothers, admonish the disorderly, encourage the faint-hearted, support the weak, be patient toward all.***

***See that no one returns evil for evil to anyone, but always follow after that which is good, for one another, and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you. Don't quench the Spirit.***

***Don't despise prophecies. Test all things, and hold firmly that which is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”***

**– 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22**

## Daily Bible Reading

April 25 – Numbers 20-22; Mark 7  
April 26 – Numbers 23-25; Mark 8  
April 27 – Numbers 26-28; Mark 9:1-29  
April 28 – Numbers 29-32; Mark 9:30-50  
April 29 – Numbers 33-36; Mark 10:1-31  
April 30 – Deuteronomy 1-4; Mark 10:32-52  
May 1 – Deuteronomy 5-9; Mark 11

***“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God;” – Ephesians 6:17***

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Bible Study: Travis  
Worship: Dan D  
Evening: Douglas

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Jim

### **Assignments**

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Reading: Dan D  
Announcements: Darrell  
Table: Mark  
Serve: Jeff  
Steve

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Invitation: Dave

### **Clean Building**

Patty (Apr) / Janice (May)

### **Prepare Communion**

Julzy (Apr) / Janice (May)

### **Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

April 25 – Jessica  
April 29 – Emily  
April 29 – Jerry  
May 4 – Lovetta

### **Upcoming Reminders**