

May 2, 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.

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

By Michael Hickox

In the “beatitude” portion of His “sermon on the mount,” Jesus taught, “***Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted***” (Matt. 5:4).

There are a few possibilities for what type of mourning would lead one to be blessed by God. Jesus may have been referring here to one who mourns due to persecution, or one who sorrows for the wickedness of the world.

In the immediate context, though, it appears quite possible that Jesus is including one who mourns with godly sorrow over his or her sins.

Notice **2 Corinthians 7:9-10**: ***I now rejoice, not that you were grieved, but that you were grieved to repentance. For you were grieved in a godly way, that you might suffer loss by us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, which brings no regret. But the sorrow of the world produces death.***

One who is poor in spirit (Matt. 5:3) will recognize how grievous sin is, and thus will be led to mourn over his or her sins, and meekly turn to the One through whom we can be forgiven (Matt. 5:5). Those who have such godly sorrow find comfort in the Lord.

“People Don’t Change”

By Michael Hickox

The phrase “people don’t change” might be used to “justify” sin that “cannot be stopped.” Though this phrase sounds wise to some, God’s Word teaches differently. Though most people do not change as God desires, some people *do*, and everyone *can*.

Consider the “Parable of the Prodigal Son,” in which Jesus spoke of a man who was [metaphorically] “**dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found**” (Luke 15:24). This son had to *change* in order to be described as such.

Consider the apostle Peter, who denied Jesus three times (Matt. 26:69-75), yet later had the faith to be an elder of a local church (1 Pet. 5:1).

Consider the apostle Paul, who persecuted Jesus and His followers (Acts 9:4-5), yet later dedicated his life to preaching that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 9:20).

Consider the Jews Peter spoke to on Pentecost, who were responsible for Jesus’ crucifixion (Acts 2:36), yet chose to give their lives to the One they had delivered up (Acts 2:41-47).

These individuals had sinned drastically. Yet, they still had a chance to be saved.

This chance was contingent on

changing. On truly *repenting*. This is the answer we must give when sin is in our lives. The answer is not to say “that’s just who I am,” but to “**go, and sin no more**” (John 8:11).

In 1 Corinthians 6:11, we find an example of individuals who had changed drastically. The Holy Spirit through Paul listed characteristics of unrighteousness and then said, “**such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**”

Notice also the change alluded to in 1 Peter 4:3: **For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles...** Like the Christians Peter wrote to, we can give up lustful and sinful ways.

Regardless of our past, we have the ability to change in ways God demands. The path of correction is there. By choosing this path, we can look at sin and say “such was I, but I’m different now. I’ve been cleansed. I’ve been sanctified. I’m walking in ‘**newness of life**’” (Rom. 6:4).

May we accept responsibility for changing as God desires.

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

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love, being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all, and in us all." – Ephesians 4:1-6

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
Stivers' son-in-law, Don
Gerry S (Cancer in leg)
Ken G

Daily Bible Reading

May 2 – Deuteronomy 10-12; Mark 12:1-27
May 3 – Deuteronomy 13-15; Mark 12:28-44
May 4 – Deuteronomy 16-18; Mark 13
May 5 – Deuteronomy 19-21; Mark 14:1-26
May 6 – Deuteronomy 22-25; Mark 14:27-53
May 7 – Deuteronomy 26-28; Mark 14:54-72
May 8 – Deuteronomy 29-31; Mark 15:1-25

"Your testimonies are wonderful, therefore my soul keeps them." – Psalm 119:129

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Bible Study: John

Worship: Dave

Evening: Larry

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Carlyle

Assignments

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Reading: Jeff

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Mike

Serve: John

Douglas

Clean Building

Janice

Prepare Communion

Janice

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Invitation: Michael

Upcoming Reminders

Anniversaries

May 30 – Larry & Patsy

Birthdays

May 4 – Lovetta

May 10 – John

May 23 – Jeanette