

May 9, 2021

## The Inward Person

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.

**Matthew 23:27-28:** *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitened tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.*

While the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day often appeared righteous outwardly, they failed to please God *inwardly*. Jesus stressed their need (and our need) to be righteous on both the outside *and* the inside (**verse 26**).

For instance, consider the need we have for *faith* (**2 Cor. 5:7**). While walking by faith involves God-pleasing conduct, faith is, in its primary sense, part of the *inward* man. This is seen in **Hebrews 11:1: *Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.***

Such a conviction is not gained by accident. **Romans 10:17** teaches, "***faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.***" Feeding our souls with the spiritual nourishment God gives us, and doing so with an honest heart that genuinely wants the truth, is a recipe for increasing our faith (cf. **Luke 8:11, 15**).

The honest heart needed when studying God's Word ties in with something else that is needed in the inward person – *sincerity* (cf. **Phil. 1:10**).

# The Inward Person

(Continued)

The scribes and Pharisees' hypocrisy exemplifies the *opposite* of sincerity. Jesus rebuked this group for doing "***all their works to be seen by men***" (Matt. 23:5). Such pretense opposes the genuine aim we should have to please God in all we do (2 Cor. 5:9).

Sincerity is helped by a third key attribute of the inner person – *spiritual-mindedness*.

Notice how the apostle Paul exemplified this. In 2 Corinthians 4:17, he referred to the "***light affliction***" he endured as a servant of Christ's. In 2 Corinthians 11 (verses 24ff), he elaborated on the severe beatings and hardships included in his "***light affliction***."

Why would Paul consider such painful trials "***light***"? Notice 2 Corinthians 4:17-18: ***For our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory, while we don't look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

These verses make clear that Paul was spiritually-minded. He saw beyond carnal, temporal things and set his affection on things above. This frame of mind is needed from each of us to be inwardly clean.

Something else God demands that is a part of the inward person is *zeal* for Him.

While zeal can cause more harm than good if misdirected (Rom. 10:1-3), knowledge without zeal is no better than zeal without knowledge.

This is seen in the Lord's rebuke of the church in Laodicea. These Christians were "***lukewarm***" (Rev. 3:16) in their service to

God. In exhorting them to repent of their spiritual apathy, the Lord commanded, "***Be zealous***" (Rev. 3:19). The fiery passion indicated in the word "***zealous***" must be directed toward God and all that He defines as good works (Titus 2:14).

In addition to a spirit of zeal, submitting to what God defines as good works demands a spirit of *meeekness* (Jas. 1:21).

This spirit is well-expressed in the hymns *Take My Life, and Let It Be* and *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*. We must have hearts that revere God, accept Him as our Master, and willfully yield to His will.

Closely related to meekness is a spirit of *humility*. While humbling ourselves involves action, humility is, in many ways, an inward quality of the heart. Philippians 2:3 says, "***doing nothing through rivalry or through conceit, but in humility, each counting others better than himself.***" In the ASV and KJV, the word for "***humility***" is translated "***lowliness of mind.***"

This helps us understand what humility is about. It involves a proper *mindset*...a proper view of self in relation to God and others. Humility is not about beating oneself up, but it properly understands God's superiority to us, and the fact that we each need God as much as anyone. Humility is not concerned about self-exaltation, but *servng* others (Phil. 2:4; Matt. 23:11-12).

These examples just scratch the surface of the importance of the inward person. May we pursue all that God teaches is needful for us to be inwardly clean.

## 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 will lift up my eyes to the hills.***

***Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved. He who keeps you will not slumber."*** – Psalm 121:1-3

***"To you I do lift up my eyes, you who sit in the heavens."*** – Psalm 123:1

***"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forevermore."*** – Psalm 125:2

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
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  
Dan H / John & Cynde

## Daily Bible Reading

May 9 – Deuteronomy 32-34; Mark 15:26-47  
May 10 – Joshua 1-4; Mark 16  
May 11 – Joshua 5-8; Luke 1:1-38  
May 12 – Joshua 9-12; Luke 1:39-80  
May 13 – Joshua 13-15; Luke 2:1-24  
May 14 – Joshua 16-20; Luke 2:25-52  
May 15 – Joshua 21-24; Luke 3

***"Let my tongue sing of your word, for all your commandments are righteousness."*** – Psalm 119:172

**Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Bible Study: Steve  
Worship: Darrell  
Evening: Michael

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Dan H

**Assignments**

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Reading: Mike  
Announcements: Roger  
Table: Darrell  
Serve: Dan H  
Mason

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Invitation: Larry

**Clean Building**

Janice

**Prepare Communion**

Janice

**Upcoming Reminders**

**Anniversaries**

May 30 – Larry & Patsy

**Birthdays**

May 10 – John  
May 23 – Jeanette