

June 6, 2021

Soldiers of Christ

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.

In **2 Timothy 2:3**, the inspired apostle Paul used the term “**good soldier of Jesus Christ**” to describe the faithful Christian. This imagery is the basis for a number of well-known hymns, including *Soldiers of Christ, Arise; Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*; and *Onward, Christian Soldiers*.

The Christian’s “fight” is in a *spiritual* battlefield (**Eph. 6:12**). The *enemy* Christ’s soldiers fight is Satan (**Eph. 6:11**). As our adversary, Satan attacks us by launching “**fiery darts**” (**Eph. 6:16**) (i.e., temptations to sin). Our adversary is vicious (**1 Pet. 5:8**), but also cunning (**2 Cor. 11:14**). The seriousness of the enemy and his tactics necessitates training, preparation, and watchfulness on the part of Christ’s soldiers.

While the enemy is vicious, our Almighty Commander assures victory for those who stand steadfastly with Him (**Eph. 6:13**). To “**stand against the wiles of the devil**,” we must put on all of the “**armor**” God supplies (**Eph. 6:11, 14-17**), and thus “**be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might**” (**Eph. 6:10**). If we obey the orders Christ has given us, follow His lead, and petition Him for help, we need not fear defeat.

Obedying our Lord is especially important when the spiritual battle is tough. A “**good soldier of Jesus Christ**” endures hardships with constancy in well-doing (**2 Tim. 2:3**).

Moreover, a good soldier of Christ has firm *loyalty* to Him. This leads to avoidance of distractions that would hinder us from dedicating the time and attention needed to fulfill the duties He gives us (**2 Tim. 2:4**).

Members of a Body

By Michael Hickox

In **1 Corinthians 12:27**, the inspired apostle Paul told the church at Corinth, “***Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.***”

Just as the physical body has a head that makes decisions for the rest of the body, the same is true with the church, which is the body of Christ. As our Head, Christ has full authority to direct us (**Eph. 1:20-23**). Our job is to *submit* to Him (**Eph. 5:24**).

While members of the body (Christians) have a variety of backgrounds and talents, all faithful members enjoy equal *access* to God and equal *importance* to Him.

1 Corinthians 12 teaches these principles. The context of this chapter deals primarily with a misunderstanding of miraculous gifts given in the 1st century before the written Word was complete. These gifts have ceased (**1 Cor. 13:8-10**), but the principles of **1 Corinthians 12** can relate to *non-miraculous* gifts that Christians have today.

For instance, a Christian who can't do something(s) another Christian can might be tempted to be discontented with his or her role in the body, or even envious of the person who has a “more desirable” role. To this attitude, one could respond, “***If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?***” (**1 Cor. 12:15**). While a

foot cannot do much that a hand can do, the foot is just as much a part of the body as the hand is. Moreover, the foot provides unique *value* to the body. The point is that just because a Christian can't do some things another Christian can, this does not make either one less a part of the body. Nor does it give the member who *seems* to be more important cause for haughtiness. All members of the body are necessary and crucial (**1 Cor. 12:21-22**).

The necessity of all members of the body infers that each Christian must do his or her share for the body to function as God desires. This is exemplified in the Holy Spirit's teaching about local church growth. For the body to grow, each *member* of the body must be growing (**Eph. 4:15-16**).

The need for each member of the body to do his or her part is amplified by the fact that members have differing talents, functions, etc. (cf. **Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:17**).

Though these differences exist, there is *one* body of Christ, which all members are united together in (**Eph. 4:4**). Unity with fellow members is thus something to strive for (**Eph. 4:1-3**), as is proper treatment of those Christ unites us with (cf. **1 Cor. 12:25-26**).

Area Gospel Meetings

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:

June 20-25 (with Ron Griffin)

Sun: 9:30 AM, 10:20 AM, 6:00 PM; M-F: 7:00 PM

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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

"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;" – Philippians 2:1-2

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
Justice G (Perthes disease)
Robert C
Stivers' son-in-law, Don
Gerry S (Cancer in leg)
Ken G (Pancreatic Cancer)
Dan H / John & Cynde

Daily Bible Reading

June 6 – 2 Samuel 12-14; Luke 16
June 7 – 2 Samuel 15-17; Luke 17
June 8 – 2 Samuel 18-20; Luke 18
June 9 – 2 Samuel 21-24; Luke 19:1-27
June 10 – 1 Kings 1-2; Luke 19:28-48
June 11 – 1 Kings 3-5; Luke 20:1-26
June 12 – 1 Kings 6-7; Luke 20:27-47

"Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace."
– Ephesians 6:14-15

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, June 6, 2021

Bible Study: Carlyle

Worship: John

Evening: Dave

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Michael

Assignments

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Mike

Table: Dan H

Serve: Darrell

Jeff

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Invitation: Michael

Clean Building

Cynde

Prepare Communion

Linda

Upcoming Reminders

Aug 8-13: Gospel Meeting (with Jim Stauffer)

Anniversaries

June 7 – Michael & Julzy

June 10 – Jeff & Patty

June 13 – Douglas & Madison

June 23 – Mason & Stephanie

Birthdays

June 16 – Jenna