

July 4, 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.

Who Our Lord Calls Blessed

By Michael Hickox

At the beginning of **Matthew 5**, Jesus spoke what is often referred to as the “beatitudes.” In these verses, Jesus describes the person who finds favor with God and is thus truly and richly blessed.

The Poor in Spirit: Jesus began the beatitudes with the words, “**Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**” (**Matt. 5:3**).

The one who is poor in spirit recognizes how *hopeless* we are without God. This is an attitude that involves recognizing we have sinned (**Rom. 3:23**), and thus *need*, but don’t deserve, His grace (**Rom. 6:23**).

Those Who Mourn: Jesus continued the beatitudes by saying, “**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted**” (**Matt. 5:4**). Jesus may have been referring here to one who mourns due to persecution, or one who sorrows for the wickedness of the world. It could also be that Jesus is including one who recognizes how grievous sin is, and thus mourns with godly sorrow over his or her sins (**2 Cor. 7:9-10**), causing repentance.

The Meek: Jesus next said, “**Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth**” (**Matt. 5:5**).

The meekness God commands is not a “push-over” attitude (**Eph. 4:14**), but an attitude related to self-control, humility, and proper submissiveness. Meekness allows one to be *directed*.

Meekness applies to how we treat

Who Our Lord Calls Blessed

(Continued)

others. Foremost, though, meekness involves submission to *God*. Meekness means letting God mold us like clay as we receive His instruction (**Jas. 1:21**).

Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness: Jesus continued His teaching about our attitude toward God's will: "***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled***" (**Matt. 5:6**).

We should earnestly strive to *be* right with God by *doing* what He says is right, which requires us to have a great appetite for *learning* what He says is right (**1 Pet. 2:2**).

The Merciful: While the first four beatitudes focus primarily on one's attitude toward God, the next four focus a lot on our attitudes toward others. This is seen in **Matthew 5:7**: "***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.***"

Being merciful includes having a willingness to forgive others. Jesus spoke a parable in **Matthew 18:23-35** that teaches our need to be forgiving. This parable tells of a servant whose master was willing to forgive him of a debt he could not pay, but this same servant was unwilling to show mercy toward a *fellow* servant.

An interesting thing about this parable is that the servant owed his master about 600,000 times as much as his fellow servant owed him (**verses 24, 28**). This contrast has a lesson for us. No one has wronged us nearly as much as we have wronged God. If

He is willing to show us mercy, how much more should we be merciful to others?

The Pure in Heart: Jesus next said, "***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God***" (**Matt. 5:8**).

Many in Jesus' day focused on the "outward man" only, while ignoring the inward man (cf. **Matt. 23:25-28**). While God commands righteous actions and words, He wants us to do and speak things that come from a *sincere heart*.

The Peacemakers: Jesus went on to say, "***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God***" (**Matt. 5:9**). In the context, it appears Jesus is foremost talking about seeking peace with *others*. We should do the best we can to pursue this (**Rom 12:18**).

Those Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake: Jesus continued by saying "***Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven***" (**Matt. 5:10**).

Those who live godly will face persecution of some kind (**2 Tim. 3:12**). This can be mental persecution, such as being mocked, falsely accused, or un-befriended. While it is hard to consider oneself blessed in this situation, those who face this glorify God (**1 Pet. 4:14**), and those who endure will receive eternal life (**Rev. 2:10**).

May we be among those who fit Jesus' description of the one who is blessed.

Area Gospel Meetings

Yale church of Christ:
July 19-23 (with Jim Stauffer)
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

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

– Lamentations 3:21-23 (ESV)

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
Robert C
Don C (Esophageal Cancer)
Gerry S (Cancer in leg)
Ken G (Pancreatic Cancer)
Ethan W (Injuries from fall)

Daily Bible Reading

July 4 – 1 Chronicles 25-27; John 9
July 5 – 1 Chronicles 28-29; John 10
July 6 – 2 Chronicles 1-3; John 11:1-29
July 7 – 2 Chronicles 4-6; John 11:30-57
July 8 – 2 Chronicles 7-9; John 12:1-26
July 9 – 2 Chronicles 10-14; John 12:27-50
July 10 – 2 Chronicles 15-18; John 13:1-20

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

– Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Bible Study: Larry
Worship: Carlyle
Evening: John

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Dave

Clean Building

Debbie

Prepare Communion

Debbie

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Reading: Dan D
Announcements: Travis
Table: Mike
Serve: Darrell
Jeff
Steve
Dave

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Invitation: Jeff

Anniversaries

July 11 – Ethan & Lindsay
July 16 – Darrell & Sidney

Birthdays

July 8 – Mark
July 12 – Holly
July 12 – Jessilyn