

July 11, 2021

Whom Shall We Fear?

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 **John 9**, Jesus healed a blind man. The man was brought to some Pharisees for questioning, as were his parents. His parents confirmed he was their son, but said "***how he now sees, we don't know; or who opened his eyes, we don't know. He is of age. Ask him. He will speak for himself***" (verse 21).

Verses 22-23 explain, "***His parents said these things because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if any man would confess Him as Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age. Ask him.'***"

They were fearful of fallible (and in this case, wrong) men. Such fear can hinder one from pleasing God.

Men, including religious men, are often wrong. Those who stand for the truth stand opposed not only to the majority of mankind (**Matt. 7:13-14**), but to many who think they are pleasing God (**Matt. 7:21**).

Instead of fearing the opposition that comes by standing for truth, we must fear what will come if we *don't* stand for truth.

It is better to be opposed by men in our brief time on earth than to oppose God and be cast away from Him for eternity.

May we share the faith of David, who said, "***The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?***" (Psalm 27:1).

Sojourners and Pilgrims

By Michael Hickox

Scripture uses a number of figures and metaphors to paint portraits for us that illustrate what being a disciple of Christ is about. Among these is the phrase “***sojourners and pilgrims***” used in **1 Peter 2:11**.

These words emphasize the fact that this world is not our permanent home. The faithful Christian understands that while our time on earth has great significance, it is just a temporary pilgrimage. We may have temporal citizenship of some place here on earth, but ultimately “***our citizenship is in heaven***” (**Phil. 3:20**). Given that Christians are sojourners and pilgrims on earth, we ought not “***mind earthly things***” like those condemned in **Philippians 3:19**. Instead, we should set our “***affection on things above, not on things on the earth***” (**Col. 3:2**).

Since this world is not our permanent home, sojourners and pilgrims must refrain from the worldliness that most people are given to. This is connected to the exhortation given in **1 Peter 2:11**.

After referencing Christians as “***sojourners and pilgrims***,” the inspired apostle Peter commanded, “***abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.***” The lusts of the flesh are of the world (**1 John 2:16**), but the Christian sojourner is not. Sojourners and pilgrims live in the world, but are not of the world. Christ’s faithful followers belong to God, rather than to the world (cf. **John 17:15-17**).

The differences of those who don’t belong to the world are noticed by those who *do*. These differences are not something to be ashamed of, but can help lead those in darkness to the light (cf. **1 Pet. 2:12**).

This isn’t to say that the differences in the lives of sojourners and pilgrims yield no hardships. Many who are of the world express hatred toward those who are not (**John 15:18-19**).

Overcoming this is aided by ever looking to the *permanent* dwelling place of the faithful (cf. **2 Cor. 4:18**).

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

“Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.” – Proverbs 3:3 (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 11 – 2 Chronicles 19-22; John 13:21-38
July 12 – 2 Chronicles 23-27; John 14
July 13 – 2 Chronicles 28-30; John 15
July 14 – 2 Chronicles 31-33; John 16
July 15 – 2 Chronicles 34-36; John 17
July 16 – Ezra 1-3; John 18
July 17 – Ezra 4-7; John 19

“Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.” – Proverbs 3:13-14 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Bible Study: Mike

Worship: Dan H

Evening: Steve

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Darrell

Clean Building

Debbie

Prepare Communion

Debbie

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Steve

Table: Roger

Serve: Mike

John

Mason

Jim

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Invitation: Mike

Anniversaries

July 11 – Ethan & Lindsay

July 16 – Darrell & Sidney

Birthdays

July 12 – Holly

July 12 – Jessilyn