

August 15, 2021

“Thy Will Be Done”

By Michael Hickox

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.

Scripture teaches that God answers prayer according to *His* will.

There are some things we may be tempted to pray for that we know (through God’s Word) are not in harmony with His will. We shouldn’t pray for these things at all.

There are other things that, as far as we can know, *might* be in accordance with God’s will, but they also might *not* be. Such things are not wrong to pray for, but we should desire God’s will to be done above all.

For example, in **2 Corinthians 12**, the apostle Paul spoke about his thorn in the flesh (**verse 7**). Paul didn’t initially know what the Lord’s will was for him concerning this thorn in the flesh. He prayed three times that it be removed (**verse 8**). He came to find out, though, that it wasn’t God’s will to take this thorn in the flesh away (**verse 9**). Paul accepted God’s answer, and became grateful for what good could come from his thorn in the flesh (**verse 10**).

The point is that prayer’s power should not be confused with God promising to conform His will to ours.

Though we may not always say these words, an *attitude* we should have when praying is, “**not my will, but yours, be done**” (Luke 22:42).

Paul's Thorn in the Flesh

By Michael Hickox

2 Corinthians 12:7-10: *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

Please notice a few things about Paul's thorn in the flesh:

First, note that this "problem" of Paul's was in many ways a *good* thing. The revelations Paul had seen (**2 Cor. 12:1-6**) could have made it easy for him to become arrogant and/or be exalted too highly by others. Thus, **verse 7** begins and ends with the words "***lest I should be exalted above measure.***" While Satan brings hardships into our lives to tear us down, God often brings or allows hardships to build us up. Paul's thorn in the flesh exemplifies this.

Paul's thorn in the flesh also demonstrates that the source of permanent joy is *not* having no trials or hardships, but rather

trusting and obeying God *through* whatever we face. Paul may have thought, "without this hardship, I could serve God better." Yet, in truth, he could serve God faithfully regardless of circumstances that were beyond his control.

Paul's spiritual-mindedness helped him accept when things did not "go his way," and even see his trials from a *positive* perspective (**Rom. 5:3-4; Phil. 1:12-14**).

Notice also what Paul's "weakness" was. Paul did not say, "I am living in sin and cannot avoid it, but I take pleasure in knowing that God forgives me anyway." The "weaknesses" Paul endured were not sins, but infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, and distresses for Christ's sake (**2 Cor. 12:10**).

We might ask what *specific* hardship(s) were referred to when Paul spoke of his thorn in the flesh. Eye problems (cf. **Gal. 4:13-15**), speech problems (**2 Cor. 10:10**), harm from others (cf. **2 Tim. 4:14**), or other explanations may be proposed, but it is likely that none of us know for sure.

What we do know about Paul's thorn in the flesh is much more significant. Paul's thorn in the flesh was not sin he was guilty of, but a trial(s) he faced. This "thorn" was difficult for him, but he endured it joyfully and focused on the good it produced.

May we remember this when we face infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, and distresses in our lives.

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

Prayer List

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

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Words to Consider

“Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.”

– Psalm 36:5-9 (ESV)

Daily Bible Reading

August 15 – Psalm 40-45; Acts 26
August 16 – Psalm 46-50; Acts 27
August 17 – Psalm 51-56; Acts 28
August 18 – Psalm 57-62; Romans 1
August 19 – Psalm 63-67; Romans 2
August 20 – Psalm 68-69; Romans 3
August 21 – Psalm 70-73; Romans 4

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants after you, God.” – Psalm 42:1 (WEB)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: Mike

Evening: Jeff

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Mark

Clean Building

Jessica

Prepare Communion

Jessica

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday adult class:

Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God

Lesson 1 (Sinful Anger)

Assignments

Sunday, August 22, 2021

Reading: Mark

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Steve

Serve: Travis

Douglas

John

Jim

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Invitation: Travis

Anniversaries

August 15 – Roger & Debbie

Birthdays

August 19 – Paula

August 24 – Debbie

August 26 – Olivia

August 31 – Stephanie