

August 22, 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.

God's Grace and Mankind's Responsibilities

Consider two important teachings of Scripture:

God's grace - **Ephesians 2:8-9:** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

And mankind's responsibilities -
2 Corinthians 5:10: *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Now consider an illustration if you will. Suppose a young boy has failed a class. His teacher laid out requirements for passing, and he did not meet those requirements. He has *earned* a failing grade in this class.

Yet, suppose his teacher offers him the chance to pass. The teacher owes him nothing but decides to offer this for his benefit. The boy is told that in order to pass he must re-take his final test of the year and get each of the questions right. Otherwise, the failing grade he has earned will remain intact.

This story is not a like-for-like parallel of God's grace and man's responsibilities, but it illustrates the simple principle that just because something is offered as an unmerited gift does not mean nothing can be required to receive the gift.

God's Grace and Mankind's Responsibilities

(Continued)

The boy would be foolish to boast about his accomplishments in the class, considering that he earned a failing grade. Yet, he would also be foolish to think that because the teacher was graciously offering to pass him, this negated all responsibilities on his end.

This principle applies to God's grace and man's responsibilities. Mankind is foolish if he becomes boastful about his accomplishments in serving God. We have all grossly mistreated God at one point or another, and are thus deserving of eternal condemnation (**Rom. 6:23**). No number of good works can change this. Without God's mercy, we cannot escape the wages of our sins, and without God's grace, we cannot have eternal life through Jesus.

It would *also* be wrong though to think that since salvation is a gift of God, there can be nothing required of us to receive it. If we ignore *our* responsibility out of fear of contradicting **Ephesians 2:8-9**, we will miss what is necessary to receive the very salvation that is described in **Ephesians 2:8-9**.

God's grace and our responsibilities do not oppose one another, but rather work "hand-in-glove." Those who meet the responsibilities God gives us find

favor with Him.

Christians who *fail* to meet our responsibilities can fall from grace (**Gal. 5:4**; cf. **Heb. 12:15**).

Those who stress God's grace day-in and day-out are not "overemphasizing grace." Yet, those who stress mankind's responsibilities are not necessarily contradicting God's grace.

We are saved by grace "***through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God***" (**Eph. 2:8**). But we also bear personal responsibility to receive the gift of salvation (**Heb. 5:9**). God wants all to be saved (**1 Tim. 2:4**), yet Jesus taught "***wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it***" (**Matt. 7:13-14**).

May we not under-emphasize God's grace or man's responsibilities. May we heavily emphasize both, recognizing that God's grace gives us hope, but we are each responsible for working "***out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling***" (**Phil. 2:12**).

-Michael Hickox

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)
Sharon G (Cancer)

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Words to Consider

“For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.” – Psalm 62:5-8 (ESV)

“Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.” – Psalm 63:3 (ESV)

Daily Bible Reading

August 22 – Psalm 74-76; Romans 5-6
August 23 – Psalm 77-78; Romans 7
August 24 – Psalm 79-83; Romans 8
August 25 – Psalm 84-88; Romans 9
August 26 – Psalm 89-90; Romans 10
August 27 – Psalm 91-96; Romans 11
August 28 – Psalm 97-102; Romans 12

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” – Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, August 22, 2021

Bible Study: Travis
Worship: Dan D
Evening: Douglas

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Jim

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 29, 2021

Reading: Travis
Announcements: Dave
Table: Darrell
Serve: Roger
Steve
Dan H
Dan D

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Invitation:

Anniversaries

Birthdays

August 24 – Debbie
August 26 – Olivia
August 31 – Stephanie