

September 19, 2021

## The God of All Comfort

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
-------------	---------

**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.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4:** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

A theme of **2 Corinthians** is the suffering the apostle Paul faced as a faithful servant of Christ's. In the opening verses of the epistle, the apostle stressed the One who supplied him strength to endure fiery trials.

The phrase "**God of all comfort**" shows some things about Paul's character, but it foremost demonstrates the character of *God*. His character provides great reason for faithful Christians to lean on Him, *especially* through trials.

For instance, when faced with trials, faithful Christians can take comfort in the fact that God is *all-seeing* (**Heb. 4:13**).

To the hypocrite, God's "all-seeing eye" is frightening. God is fully aware of every action, word, and thought of the one whose faith is insincere.

To the faithful child of God, though, God's all-seeing eye is *comforting*. God knows everything we face, and He knows the efforts of those who genuinely surrender all to Him.

This principle is demonstrated in **Revelation 2** and **3**. These chapters

# The God of All Comfort

(Continued)

contain seven sections, each of which directly addresses one of the seven churches the book of Revelation was written to (**Rev. 1:11**). A phrase that is spoken to each of the seven churches is “*I know*” (**Rev. 2:2; 2:9; 2:13; 2:19; 3:1; 3:8; 3:15**).

While the Lord’s knowledge included the sins many of the Christians in these churches were guilty of, it also included knowledge of the sincere faith among some (**Rev. 2:9; 3:4**), and the sufferings they faced (**Rev. 2:9-10**). The Lord understood fully what was going on.

God not only perfectly understands though, but He also perfectly *cares*. **1 Peter 5:7** says “***casting all your worries on Him, because He cares for you.***”

It is amazing to consider that the Creator of this world allows us to cast our anxiety on Him. It is even more striking, though, that He *wants* us to do this because He *cares* for us. What can be more comforting for the faithful Christian than to know that our Almighty God cares about us and wants us to let Him know what we are struggling with?

Our all-seeing and caring God is also perfectly *faithful*. He can be trusted because He is perfectly *trustworthy*.

“***God is faithful***” to ensure that no temptation is unbearable for us. He faithfully provides a “***way of escape***” with every temptation (**1 Cor. 10:13**).

God’s faithfulness is the foundation of the Christian’s hope, as it assures that the

righteous will be raised to eternal life in heaven (**Titus 1:2**).

The perfect faithfulness of God also assures that He is always available to hear the prayers of any one of His faithful children, and that He will answer in perfect harmony with His divine wisdom.

When faced with any difficulty, it is nice to be able to speak to someone who understands, cares, and can be depended upon to help. No one understands as well as God. No one cares as much as He does. No one is as faithful as Him.

When God’s obedient children consider these and other truths about His character, the phrase “***God of all comfort***” resonates deeply. Because of who *He* is, the faithful Christian’s reaction to trials is far different from the world’s.

The faithful Christian is able to have a deep sense of joy (**Phil. 4:4**), a peace that “***surpasses all understanding***” (**Phil. 4:7**) and contentment (**Phil. 4:11-12**), even in the midst of severe trials.

Faithful Christians have spiritual riches that far outweigh anything the world can offer. This is what God offers for *any* who choose to come to Him on His terms. While all are going to face sad times, there is at the same time a deep sense of comfort for the obedient child of God.

In good times and bad, faithful Christians can lean upon One who is the “***God of all comfort.***”

## Area Gospel Meetings

River Ridge church of Christ:  
September 19-24 (with Chuck Bartlett)  
*Sun: 9:00, 10:00, 4:00; Mon-Fri: 7:00 PM*

Mattoon Southside Church of Christ:  
October 11-17 (with Ken McDaniel)  
*Mon-Sat: 7:00 PM; Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 6:00*

+++++

## 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

+++++

## Words to Consider

***“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”***

**– John 8:12 (ESV)**

## 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)  
Sharon G (Cancer)  
Doans' Grandson, Wilson (Autoimmune Dis.)  
Wayne W (Covid)  
Carlyle B (Covid)  
Mawell P (& Angel) (Covid)

## Daily Bible Reading

September 19 – Proverbs 30-31; 2 Cor 11  
September 20 – Ecclesiastes 1-3; 2 Cor 12  
September 21 – Ecclesiastes 4-6; 2 Cor 13  
September 22 – Ecclesiastes 7-9; Gal 1  
September 23 – Ecclesiastes 10-12; Gal 2  
September 24 – Song of Solomon 1-4; Gal 3  
September 25 – Song of Solomon 5-8; Gal 4

***“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, September 19, 2021

Bible Study: Mark

Worship: Roger

Evening: Mike

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Douglas

### **Clean Building**

Misty

### **Prepare Communion**

Donna G

### **Upcoming Reminders**

#### **Wednesday adult class:**

*Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God*

*Lesson 4 (Lust, the Silent Soul-killer)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Reading: Dan D

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Dave

Serve: Roger

Douglas

Mason

Jeff

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Invitation: Larry

### **Anniversaries**

October 6 – Travis & Jessica

October 11 – Mike & Paula

### **Birthdays**

September 20 – Michael

October 2 – Carlyle

October 4 – Norma