

October 3, 2021

The Transformed Life

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.

Romans 12:1-2: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

The first two verses of **Romans 12** are at the foundation of faithful Christian living. The words “***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God***” are a plea to consider what has been explained in the first eleven chapters of Romans: man’s rejection of God, and God’s plan to redeem mankind through His Son.

As the Holy Spirit pleaded with the Romans (and pleads with us) to consider these “***mercies of God***,” He offers the only appropriate response: to present ourselves as a “***living sacrifice***” to God. To be an acceptable sacrifice to God, we must be holy, or set apart from the sinfulness of the world to bring glory to God.

This ties in with what is said in **verse 2** of the chapter. Presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice to God involves not following the world’s pattern, but being *transformed*.

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(Continued)

The Greek word for transformed (*metamorphoo*) is related to the English word metamorphosis. Like a caterpillar changes into a cocoon and then into a butterfly, those who present themselves as a living sacrifice to God must go through a *spiritual* metamorphosis. As **2 Corinthians 5:17** says, “***if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***”

Paul expressed this principle this way in **Galatians 2:20**: ***I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.***

This is the attitude we should all have: appreciate God’s mercies and respond by surrendering ourselves fully to God.

This transformation process begins with a renewing of the mind, allowing God’s Word to change how we see things instead of thinking like the world. By transforming in this way, we can discern “***what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***”

The remainder of **Romans 12** expands on the transformed lifestyle that pleases God. **Verses 3-5**, for instance, stress the

need for humility, particularly as it applies to the functions we have within the church.

Verse 9 stresses the transformative thinking that cleaves to what God defines as good and abhors what God defines as evil. **Verses 10** and **15** stress the need for care, sympathy, kindness, and brotherly love, particularly toward brothers and sisters in Christ. **Verse 11** teaches the need for diligence, as well as the need for fervency, or a fiery passion for God and the good works He commands.

Verses 12-13 further exhort joy, hope, endurance, prayerfulness, benevolence, and hospitality. The end of the chapter stresses the need to seek peace with others, and particularly emphasizes the need to not seek revenge or render evil for evil (**verses 14, 17-21**).

This lifestyle doesn’t follow worldly wisdom. Rather, it’s a lifestyle that lets God’s will be the guide so that *He* may be pleased.

Such is only fitting when we consider the mercies of God. What He’s done for us demands that we be transformed so as to be an acceptable sacrifice to Him.

Area Gospel Meetings

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

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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

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” – Ephesians 5:15-17 (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 Recovery)
Carlyle B (Heart Issues)

Daily Bible Reading

October 3 – Isaiah 17-19; Eph. 5:17-33
October 4 – Isaiah 20-22; Ephesians 6
October 5 – Isaiah 23-25; Philippians 1
October 6 – Isaiah 26-27; Philippians 2
October 7 – Isaiah 28-29; Philippians 3
October 8 – Isaiah 30-31; Philippians 4
October 9 – Isaiah 32-33; Colossians 1

“This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.” – John 6:50 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, October 3, 2021

Bible Study: Dan D

Worship: John

Evening: Dave

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Larry

Clean Building

Cynde

Prepare Communion

Donna G

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday adult class:

Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God

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

*Lesson 5 (Greed, A Sin of the Mind and
Flesh)*

Assignments

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Jeff

Table: Dan H

Serve: Steve

Mike

John

Jim

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Invitation: Dan D

Anniversaries

October 6 – Travis & Jessica

October 11 – Mike & Paula

October 27 – Carlyle & Donna

Birthdays

October 4 – Norma

October 20 – Alita

October 21 – Dave

October 22 – Janice

October 23 – Craig

October 29 – Morgan