

October 17, 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.

## “Prayer of a *Righteous Man*”

By Michael Hickox

**James 5:16** says that the “*effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*” This is comforting for the faithful Christian.

It is significant to note though that there are some “qualifiers” placed around the prayer that avails much. Notice that **James 5:16** does not say “prayer availeth much,” but rather “*the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*” Scripture teaches that for our prayers to be effective, there are some things needed on our part. One thing that is needed is *righteous living*.

This point is brought out strongly in **1 Peter 3:12**, which says, “*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears open to their prayer; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil*” (also see **1 John 3:22**).

God does not promise the unrighteous that their prayers will be effective. In fact, His face is *against* the unrighteous.

Part of living righteously involves becoming a Christian as God commands, (i.e., when a repentant believer is baptized “*into Christ*” for the remission of his or her sins (**Gal. 3:27**; cf. **Acts 2:38**)).

The context of **1 Peter 3:8-16** shows, though, that living righteously is not just a one-time event, but a *lifestyle* of surrendering to God’s commands.

The one who chooses this life can take comfort in the promise of **James 5:16**.

# The “Prosperity Gospel”

By Michael Hickox

A characteristic of the sinner mentioned in **1 Timothy 6:3-5** is that he supposes “**that gain is godliness.**”

Some in the world of “Christendom” teach that living godly leads to earthly riches. This false teaching is not merely that God takes care of His children (cf. **Ps. 37:25**), that He helps the benevolent continue to give (cf. **2 Cor. 9:6-15**), or that being a Christian discourages carelessness with money (**Rom. 13:8a**). Rather, the view is that Christianity is a blueprint for being wealthier than those around us. This is sometimes referred to as the “prosperity gospel.”

Such false teaching causes many to under-value the true riches available in Christ. Others are led to think that if they have more riches than someone else, it is a result of being more godly.

What is ironic about this misconception is that the One *Christianity* is founded upon was relatively poor at times as He walked on earth (cf. **Luke 9:58**). Many of His obedient followers were likewise poor (cf. **2 Cor. 11:27**).

Some of Christ’s disciples are materially rich, but not nearly all are. Nor is the Bible a pattern for gaining earthly riches.

After stating the error of those who suppose “**that gain is godliness,**” the inspired apostle “turned the tables” to show how “godliness” and “gain” are connected. **1 Timothy 6:6: *But godliness with contentment is great gain.***

Those who are godly and content with however much or however little they have (cf. **Phil. 4:11-12**) gain the true riches (spiritual riches) available through Christ. These riches far exceed any earthly prosperity.

This point is brought out to two churches Jesus addressed in Revelation. Speaking to the church at Smyrna, Jesus said He knew their “**poverty,**” yet He said they were “**rich**” (**Rev. 2:9**). By contrast, the church at Laodicea said they were “**rich, and increased with goods,**” yet Jesus said they were “**poor**” (**Rev. 3:17**).

While those in Smyrna had little materially, they were strong spiritually. The opposite could be said of the lukewarm Laodiceans.

If we live godly lives, we will receive blessings that cannot be measured with dollar signs...blessings that far outweigh anything the world can offer.

## Area Gospel Meetings

Mattoon Southside Church of Christ:  
Ends Today (Oct. 17) (with Ken McDaniel)  
*Time this evening: 6:00 p.m.*

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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

***"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;"***  
– 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (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)  
Roger, Sharon, Annette & Families  
Ken & Christine F

### Daily Bible Reading

October 17 – Isaiah 50-52; 1 Thess. 5  
October 18 – Isaiah 53-55; 2 Thes. 1  
October 19 – Isaiah 56-58; 2 Thes. 2  
October 20 – Isaiah 59-61; 2 Thess. 3  
October 21 – Isaiah 62-64; 1 Timothy 1  
October 22 – Isaiah 65-66; 1 Timothy 2  
October 23 – Jeremiah 1-2; 1 Timothy 3

***"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment."***  
– Philippians 1:9 (ASV)

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Bible Study: Jeff  
Worship: Mark  
Evening: Roger

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mike

### **Clean Building**

Cynde

### **Prepare Communion**

Donna G

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Wednesday adult class:**

*Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God*

*Lesson 6 (Deceit)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, October 24, 2021

Reading: Dave  
Announcements: Dan D  
Table: Darrell  
Serve: Dan H  
John  
Mason  
Jim

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Invitation: Mike

### **Anniversaries**

October 27 – Carlyle & Donna

### **Birthdays**

October 20 – Alita  
October 21 – Dave  
October 22 – Janice  
October 23 – Craig  
October 29 – Morgan