

December 12, 2021

## “No One Will Know”

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## 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.

An excuse some use to justify sin is the claim “no one will know.”

In **2 Samuel 11**, David fell into this kind of thinking. In that chapter, David committed adultery with Bathsheba, and then told lies and had Bathsheba’s husband put to death, all in attempts to “hide” his sin (**2 Sam. 11:14-15**). Following Uriah’s death, David took Bathsheba to be his wife, and seemed to think his sins were “covered up.”

Yet, God was not fooled. The end of the chapter says “***the thing that David had done displeased the LORD***” (**verse 27**). David’s sin did not go unnoticed or unpunished (**2 Sam. 12**).

As David learned, we can’t hide from Him whose judgment matters most. **Hebrews 4:13** says “***There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.***”

Hypocrisy leads one to focus only on *appearing* righteous in the eyes of others. Sincere obedience leads one to be righteous, no matter how many people are watching. The righteous know that *God* is always watching.

May we walk with righteous integrity, and never make the excuse “no one will know” to justify sin.

# “Your Church Doesn’t Have Special Christmas Services?”

By Michael Hickox

It is often expected that any religious group which recognizes Jesus as the Son of God will have special services during the Christmas season to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

Yet, Scripture does not tell us what day of the year Jesus was born on. Moreover, God never commands us to celebrate Jesus’ birth in this way man has chosen to.

Scripture tells of God the Son coming to this earth (**Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20**), but there is no mention of Christmas, nor is there a command for churches to pick a day of the year to remember Jesus’ birth above all other days.

Jesus *did* establish a special memorial for the church to observe in remembrance of Him (**Luke 22:19**).

This is not Christmas (or Easter), but what the Holy Spirit calls the “**Lord’s supper**” (**1 Cor. 11:20**). The Lord’s supper was observed in the New Testament on the first day of the week (**Acts 20:7**). It is interesting how many

neglect following this observance established by Jesus Himself, yet eagerly practice a celebration of Jesus established by men.

This does not demean the importance of God the Son coming to earth (**Phil. 2:5-7**). Nor does it imply that there is anything wrong with individuals celebrating Christmas in a non-religious way.

These points *do*, though, remind us of the difference between commands of God and manmade traditions promoted *as though* they are from God (**Mark 7:7**).

Christ’s Word specifies the worship He desires of the local church. May we simply submit to His pattern, instead of going beyond what He authorizes.

As **2 John 9** says, “***Whoever transgresses and doesn’t remain in the teaching of Christ, doesn’t have God. He who remains in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.***”

## 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

***“This God – his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? – the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless. He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights.”***  
– Psalm 18:30-33 (ESV)

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond B  
Barbara G (Cancer)  
Robert C  
Sharon G (Cancer)  
Doans' Grandson, Wilson  
Carlyle B  
Ken & Christine F  
Devin D (Cancer)  
Debbie C & Family

## Daily Bible Reading

December 12 – Hosea 9-11; Revelation 3  
December 13 – Hosea 12-14; Revelation 4  
December 14 – Joel; Revelation 5  
December 15 – Amos 1-3; Revelation 6  
December 16 – Amos 4-6; Revelation 7  
December 17 – Amos 7-9; Revelation 8  
December 18 – Obadiah; Revelation 9

***“The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.”*** – Psalm 12:6 (ESV)

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Bible Study: Darrell  
Worship: Michael  
Evening: Dan H

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Mark

### **Clean Building**

Paula

### **Prepare Communion**

Paula

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Wednesday adult class:**

*Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God*

*Lesson 11 (Irreverence)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Reading: Mike  
Announcements: Jeff  
Table: Steve  
Serve: Mark  
Travis  
Mike  
John

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Invitation: Dave

### **Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

December 13 – Donna B  
December 21 – Linda  
December 21 – Christie  
December 22 – Jailyn  
December 22 – Lauren