

December 19, 2021

## God's Plan of Salvation

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.

The central theme of the Bible is God's plan to save mankind through Christ. Consider why we *need* salvation, what *God* has done to make salvation possible, and what *we* must do to be saved.

What Do We Need To Be Saved From?:  
We must be saved from *sin* (**Matt. 1:21**) and its consequences (**Rom. 5:9**).

**1 John 3:4** defines sin as "***the transgression of the law.***" God has given commands for people in all "dispensations" of time to obey. His commands for *us* are contained in the Law of Christ. When we *commit* something God forbids or *omit* something He requires, we are guilty of sin.

All who have reached the age and are able to know right from wrong have sinned (**Rom. 3:23**). The only exception to this is Jesus Christ (**Heb. 4:15**).

The ultimate "***wages of sin***" is eternal death (**Rom. 6:23**). This refers to eternal separation from God (cf. **2 Thess. 1:9**). It involves spending eternity in hell.

Hell is described by our Lord as a place of "***eternal punishment***" (**Matt. 25:46**), "***where their worm doesn't die, and the fire is not quenched***" (**Mark 9:48**).

This is what even one sin against God "earns" us. So what we need to be saved from is *sin and its consequences*.

What Did God Do So We Can Be Saved?: God's love prompted Him to do something about our hopeless situation.

# God's Plan of Salvation

(Continued)

The second part of **Romans 6:23** says "**but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" Though sin earns us eternal death in hell, God offers us eternal life in heaven.

We do not earn or deserve this gift. It is unmerited, and is offered to us through God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is deity, and took part in creating the world (**John 1:3**). But though He is deity, God the Son came to earth and took on human form (**Phil. 2:7-8**). Jesus lived in perfect obedience to the Father's will, and then gave His life so we could be saved from sin. The Father *raised* Him from the dead, thus providing hope of eternal life to His faithful children (**1 Cor. 15**).

So through God's plan, Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit's revelation of all of this, we have the opportunity to be saved from sin.

What Must We Do To Be Saved?: By fulfilling His role in the plan of salvation, Jesus became the *author* of eternal salvation. More specifically though, He became the author of eternal salvation to those who *obey* Him (**Heb. 5:9**). Salvation is *offered* to everyone, but something is needed on *our* part to receive this gift.

The New Testament shows what it takes for one to be *added* to the body of the saved. We must believe Jesus is the Son of God upon hearing that truth (**Rom. 10:17**). Some on the Day of Pentecost responded to this

conviction by asking the apostles, "**what shall we do?**" (**Acts 2:37**). The apostle Peter replied, "**Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**" (**verse 38**). About three thousand souls responded by repenting and being baptized in the name of Christ for the forgiveness of sins (**verse 41**).

This pattern is seen throughout **Acts**.

Those who believed the truth about Jesus and were willing to confess Him (**Acts 8:35-39**) repented of their sins and were "**baptized into Christ**" (**Rom. 6:3**), and thus added by the Lord to His church, the body of the saved (**Acts 2:47**).

While one enters a saved condition upon being "**baptized into Christ**" as a repentant believer, this does *not* ensure one can never lose his or her salvation. Christians must faithfully obey God to remain in a saved condition (cf. **Gal. 5:4**). When one has sinned *after* becoming a Christian, he or she must repent and seek God's forgiveness (**Acts 8:22**).

Much more could be said about God's plan of salvation, but after looking at these points from Scripture, we can understand that salvation is needed because of sin, God did His part to make salvation possible through the work of His Son, and now we must respond in obedience to Him in order to receive this gift of salvation.

## 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

***“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.”***

**– Proverbs 10:9 (ESV)**

***“Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.”***

**– Proverbs 10:17 (ESV)**

***“The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.”*** – Proverbs 10:20 (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 19 – Jonah; Revelation 10  
December 20 – Micah 1-3; Revelation 11  
December 21 – Micah 4-5; Revelation 12  
December 22 – Micah 6-7; Revelation 13  
December 23 – Nahum; Revelation 14  
December 24 – Habakkuk; Revelation 15  
December 25 – Zephaniah; Revelation 16

***“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.”***

**– Proverbs 25:11 (ESV)**

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: Mike

Evening: Jeff

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Douglas

### **Clean Building**

Paula

### **Prepare Communion**

Paula

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Wednesday adult class:**

*Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God*

*Lesson 11 (Irreverence) &*

*Lesson 12 (Lack of Brotherly Love)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Reading: Jeff

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Darrell

Serve: Dan H

John

Roger

Jim

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

Invitation: Larry

### **Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

December 21 – Linda

December 21 – Christie

December 22 – Jailyn

December 22 – Lauren