

December 26, 2021

A Search for Meaning

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.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

King Solomon spent much of his life searching for meaning and fulfillment of purpose. He sought (and acquired) nearly everything the world deems to be life's aim. He gained wealth, possessions, pleasure, popularity, prestige, education, and accomplishments, yet concluded "***vanity of vanities; all is vanity***" (Eccl. 1:2).

After explaining several things that did not bring fulfillment, Solomon, by inspiration, ended Ecclesiastes by stating what *does*. "***Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter,***" he said.

Life is not about gaining earthly wealth, fame, or prestige, although such may not be wrong. Life's meaning goes deeper than being a good spouse, parent, or neighbor, although these things *result* from fulfilling one's purpose in life.

At its core, life is about glorifying and pleasing God.

There's a "hole" inside of us that only God can fill. There is a longing for fulfillment that is satisfied by serving Him.

May we heed the wisdom offered us by the Holy Spirit and "***Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.***"

“Making Melody in Your Heart to the Lord”

By Michael Hickox

Ephesians 5:19: *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

God gives us a pattern to follow for our worship. This pattern is the “recipe” for worshiping in a way that pleases the One who our worship must be directed toward.

Part of God’s pattern involves worship through music. The music He authorizes is not playing with mechanical instruments. Rather, He specifically authorizes *singing*. (cf. **Acts 16:25; 1 Cor. 14:15; Col. 3:16; Jas. 5:13**).

While there is a need to avoid worshiping in ways God’s not authorized, there is just as great a need to ensure that the way we sing pleases God.

The words, “***making melody in your heart to the Lord***” demonstrate a key part of this. **Colossians 3:16** contains a similar exhortation, commanding, “***singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.***” These phrases show that our singing must be sincere. Our hearts should be moved as we sing with thanksgiving words that we mean.

This demonstrates that God doesn’t “rate” singing the way the world does. Rather, He judges according to what *He*

wants. Those who are afraid their singing is “not up to par” should remember that God is listening to their hearts (those tempted to criticize such individuals should remember this too).

Besides the glory we should bring God as we sing, there’s a great deal to *learn* in the words of the hymns we sing. While **Ephesians 5:19** commands, “***Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,***” **Colossians 3:16** commands, “***teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.***”

These phrases show that an important purpose of “congregational” singing is to edify one another. Everyone has a responsibility to contribute to this edification...not just a select few in a “church choir.” Edification results from a focus on the words being sang. Most every song we sing has a sermon (or more) within it.

While our outward actions matter when we worship God, so too does the heart. Following His instruction concerning singing in worship includes making melody with our hearts. This causes a sound that is beautiful to God and builds up those singing.

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

“He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.” – Psalm 25:9 (ESV)

***“Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.”
– Psalm 25:12 (ESV)***

“My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.” – Psalm 25:15 (ESV)

Prayer List

Holly G
Jerry & 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
Renida M (Kyle G's Grandmother)

Daily Bible Reading

December 26 – Haggai; Revelation 17
December 27 – Zech. 1-4; Revelation 18
December 28 – Zech. 5-8; Revelation 19
December 29 – Zech. 9-12; Revelation 20
December 30 – Zech. 13-14; Revelation 21
December 31 – Malachi; Revelation 22
January 1 – Genesis 1-3; Matthew 1

***“Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.”
– Psalm 25:4 (ESV)***

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Bible Study: Jim

Worship: Travis

Evening: Dan D

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

Douglas

Clean Building

Paula (Dec) / Patty (Jan)

Prepare Communion

Paula (Dec) / Patty (Jan)

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday adult class:

Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God

Lesson 12 (Lack of Brotherly Love)

Assignments

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Dave

Table: Mark

Serve: Steve

Jim

Darrell

Dan H

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Invitation: Travis

Anniversaries

January 1 – Jerry & Sandy

January 3 – Dave & Donna

Birthdays

January 9 – Douglas

January 10 – Cynde

January 15 – Mike

January 17 – Raymond