

February 11, 2018

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803

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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“Whoever of You Wants to Become First”

“Whoever of you wants to become first among you, shall be bondservant of all. For the Son of Man also came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

—Mark 10:44-45 (WEB)

In the above passage, Jesus contrasted the world’s view of greatness with what God sees as great (cf. **verses 42-43**).

The teaching came just after James and John asked to sit on Jesus’ right and left hands in His glory. Like James and John, people often seek prestige, position, and power, believing this is what greatness is.

Yet Jesus pointed out that this attitude is the opposite of what God calls great.

Before leaving the Ephesian elders in **Acts 20:35**, Paul told them ***“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*** To follow Jesus’ steps, we must focus on giving. We must seek to serve rather than seeking to be served.

Jesus not only taught servitude, but also exemplified this. When He washed His disciples’ feet, He stated ***“I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you”*** (John 13:15).

Shortly after He washed His disciples’ feet, Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many. There could be no better example of putting others ahead of oneself.

May we follow His lead of servitude.

-Michael Hickox

“All That Will Live Godly in Christ Jesus Shall Suffer Persecution”

Michael Hickox

2 Timothy 3:10-12: *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

Persecution is unpleasant but inevitable for Christians. Jesus told His disciples in **John 15:20**, “*if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;*”

Physical persecution was common for early Christians. After Paul was converted, he was “*in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft*” (**2 Corinthians 11:23**). He said, “*Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods*” (**verses 24-25a**). His persecutions included being stoned and left for dead at Lystra (**Acts 14:19**; cf. **2 Timothy 3:11**).

Reflecting on this can make one wonder, “Am I living a godly life in Christ? I don’t seem to face persecution like Paul did.”

We must realize though that persecution is not always physical. When Jesus said, “*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake*” (**Matthew 5:11**), He referenced mental persecution.

Christians are often ridiculed. The tenderheartedness of the meek and lowly can lead to oppression from the proud and greedy. Standing for the truth often angers those whose choices defy it.

Jesus summarized the cause of His disciples’ persecution in **John 15:19**: “*If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*”

Jesus also taught the proper response to persecution. **Matthew 5:44**: “*Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you...*”

In the parable of the sower, Jesus said that the person who receives seed in “*stony places*”...that is, the one who has a shallow faith...will fall away when persecuted (**Matthew 13:20-21**). We must have a faith that endures persecution.

Enduring persecution is made easier when we remember what Paul said of his persecutions: “*Out of them all the Lord delivered me*” (**2 Timothy 3:11b**).

The temporary suffering Christians face is “*not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*” (**Romans 8:18**). May this hope anchor us as we live godly lives in Christ Jesus and remain faithful to the Lord no matter how difficult that may be.

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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Steps to Salvation

1. Hear – Matt. 17:5; Heb 1:2; John 6:45
2. Believe – Heb. 11:6; John 8:24, 20:31
3. Repent – Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
4. Confess – Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10
5. Be Baptized – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
6. Be Faithful – Matt. 10:22; Rev. 2:10

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Words to Consider

“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.” –Hab. 3:17-18

Prayer List

Holly
Barb
Hickox's Granddaughter, Lyla (Leukemia)
Harold (Prostate Cancer)
John & Linda (Heart Disease)
Sandy (Foot Injury)
Betty
Mabel
Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
Snyder's Niece, Tessa (Serving in Jordan)
Mike (Prostate Cancer)
Cheryl (Breast Cancer)
June's Sister, Nancy (Heart Irregularity)
Norma (Injuries from fall)
June & Family
Jerry (Throat Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

Feb 11 – Exodus 36-38; Matthew 23:1-22
Feb 12 – Exodus 39-40; Matthew 23:23-39
Feb 13 – Leviticus 1-3; Matthew 24:1-28
Feb 14 – Leviticus 4-5; Matthew 24:29-51
Feb 15 – Leviticus 6-7; Matthew 25:1-30
Feb 16 – Leviticus 8-10; Matthew 25:31-46
Feb 17 – Leviticus 11-12; Matthew 26:1-25

“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the Word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the Word which by the Gospel is preached unto you.” –1 Peter 1:24-25

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Bible Study: John
Worship: Roger
Evening: Dave

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mike

Assignments

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Reading: Dan H
Announcements: Mike
Table: Travis
Serve: Harold
Dan D
Darrell
Steve

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Invitation: Larry

Cleaning Building

Donna

Prepare Communion

Donna

Preaching

Michael Hickox

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Feb 13 – Darrell
Feb 15 – Dan D
Feb 23 – Larry
Feb 28 – Donna
Feb 28 – Sandy