

April 22, 2018

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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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Please join us for our Gospel meeting this week (April 22-27). See above for Sunday meeting times. Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

The Word That Builds Us Up

by Michael Hickox

Romans 10:17: *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

The statement in **Romans 10:17** applies both to Christians and those who are not yet Christians. God's word produces and builds faith.

Jesus, in the "parable of the sower," taught that when good and honest hearts come in contact with the truth of God's word, good fruit is produced (**Luke 8:15**).

God's word is the "seed" that makes Christians (**Luke 8:11**), and God's word is the nourishment by which Christians grow (**Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:14**).

This week, we invite all to come hear lessons from this faith-building word.

As we hear, may we not be as the hard-hearted, who do not want to admit when change is needed. May we not be as those who hear the word, but do not put it into practice. May we not be as the procrastinator, who says "someday" I will do what the Lord requires.

May we have the heart to make our lives right with God immediately, recognizing that none of us are guaranteed another day (**James 4:14**), and Jesus' return could come this week (**Matt. 24:36; 2 Pet. 3:10**).

God has given us "***all things that pertain unto life and godliness***" (**2 Pet. 1:3**). May we seek to be godly and thus be granted eternal life by "feeding" upon His word and putting His will into practice.

Hypocrisy

By Michael Hickox

Luke 12:1b: Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

The word used for “hypocrite” in the New Testament is defined as “*an actor under an assumed character (stage-player)*” (see *Strong G5273*). A hypocrite in the biblical sense *pretends* to be righteous, but is not.

The Pharisees Jesus referred to in **Luke 12** demonstrated this. Jesus rebuked them for doing things that appeared righteous on the outside while failing to be clean on the inside (**Luke 11:39**). They did not respond to His rebuke with repentance, but with arrogant retaliation (**verses 53-54**). This exemplified their hypocrisy.

Hypocrisy can take on several forms.

Probably the most common picture of a hypocrite is one who criticizes *others’* sins, but overlooks his or her *own*. Jesus spoke against this in **Matthew 7:5: *Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.***

The hypocrite pretends to revere God by charging *others* to obey, but does not really care about pleasing God, as shown by his or her *own* actions.

Hypocrisy also manifests itself in doing things that appear righteous, but doing so with an unrighteous motive.

Consider the scribes and Pharisees who did all their works “**for to be seen of men**” (**Matt. 23:5**). When praying in public, for

example, these hypocrites might use “*vain repetitions*” to appear wise, but they did not really pray from the heart. Such is hypocrisy (**Matt. 6:7**; cf. **Matt. 6:5**; **23:14**). It is an example of “honoring” Jesus with the lips, while the heart is far from Him (**Mark 7:6**).

More generally, hypocrisy can exist when individuals claim to be Christians but do not live Christian lives. “Acting” the part of a Christian only on Sunday mornings or when someone asks “what is your religion?” is far from the *lifestyle* of obedience God commands (**Rom. 12:1**).

Christians are commanded to *lay aside* hypocrisies (**1 Pet. 2:1**).

And if we are ever discouraged by someone who claims to be a Christian but does not follow Christ’s steps, know that this is not a problem with God or His Word. Rather, it is *in spite of* what God promotes through His Word.

As discouraging as such hypocrisy can be, it is no excuse for those who witness it to not obey God. He does not call us to follow the hypocrite, but to follow *Him*.

Know also that there *are* some who really are doing their best to obey God. They constantly examine themselves to see where improvement is needed, and repent when sin is discovered. They desire to please Him above all.

May we do likewise and *sincerely* serve God.

Area Gospel Meetings

Elm Grove Church of Christ:
April 29 - May 4 (with Mike Davis)

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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

“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.” –Romans 12:9-13

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 H (Prostate Cancer)
 Cheryl (Breast Cancer)
 June's Sister, Nancy (Heart Irregularity)
 Norma (Injuries from fall)
 June & Family
 Jerry G (Throat Cancer)
 Mattie (Leukemia)

Daily Bible Reading

April 22 – 1 Samuel 30-31; Luke 13:23-35
 April 23 – 2 Samuel 1-2; Luke 14:1-24
 April 24 – 2 Samuel 3-5; Luke 14:25-35
 April 25 – 2 Samuel 6-8; Luke 15:1-10
 April 26 – 2 Samuel 9-11; Luke 15:11-32
 April 27 – 2 Samuel 12-13; Luke 16
 April 28 – 2 Samuel 14-15; Luke 17:1-19

“Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.” –Psalm 119:35

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Bible Study: Dave

Worship: Mark

Evening: John

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Dan D

Cleaning Building

Julzy

Prepare Communion

Julzy

Upcoming Reminders

April 22-27: Gospel Meeting
with Andrew Roberts

April 28: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

June 9: Vacation Bible School

Assignments

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Reading: Steve

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Don

Serve: Mark

Roger

Mason

Joe

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Invitation:

Anniversaries

Birthdays

April 25 – Jessica

April 29 – Emily

April 29 – Jerry S

May 4 – Lovetta