

April 29, 2018

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

Services

Sunday

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| Bible Study | 9:30 am |
| A.M. Worship | 10:20 am |
| P.M. Worship | 2:00 pm |

Wednesday

| | |
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| Bible Class | 7:00 pm |
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Visitors are welcome
We offer Bible classes for all ages
We also offer in-home Bible studies

The Head of the Church

by Michael Hickox

When the word “church” is used in the New Testament, it almost always comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*. This word refers to a “called out” assembly of people. When it is used in the New Testament, it typically refers specifically to those who are in Christ.

The word “church” is one term among several that describes the collective body of those in Christ.

In **Colossians 1:13**, the church is called “*the kingdom of [God’s] dear Son.*” In **1 Timothy 3:15**, the church is called “*the house of God.*” In **Ephesians 2:21**, the church is called “*an holy temple in the Lord.*” In **Ephesians 1:23**, the church is referred to as Christ’s “*body.*”

Though several terms are used to describe the church, they are not “denominations” of the Lord’s body. Rather, multiple terms are used to describe the *same* body.

Just as Jesus may be called “Lord,” “Savior,” “Christ,” “King,” “Redeemer,” “Prophet,” “High Priest,” etc., “the church” may be called “church of Christ,” “church of God,” “kingdom of Christ,” “temple of the Lord,” “body of Christ,” etc.

The first part of **Ephesians 4:4** makes it clear that these terms all refer to just one church, as it states, “*There is one body.*”

Having said this, there are times in Scripture that the word “*churches*” is used in the plural form (cf. **Rom. 16:16**; **Gal. 1:2**).

The reason for this is that while the church is sometimes referred to in the “universal” sense (all Christians throughout the world), it is at other times referred to in the “local”

The Head of the Church

(Continued)

sense (Christians meeting at a particular location to carry out the work of the church). The distinction between different “**churches**” in the New Testament is not what doctrine they are to follow or who their source of authority is. Rather, churches are distinguished from one another by location.

Paul wrote to saints “*in Rome*” (Rom. 1:7), “*at Corinth*” (1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1), “*at Ephesus*” (Eph. 1:1), “*at Philippi*” (Phil. 1:1), and “*at Colosse*” (Col. 1:2). He referenced one church that was “*of the Thessalonians*” (1 Thes. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1), but this again identified their location. Doctrinally, this church was “*in God the father and in the Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thes. 1:1; cf. 2 Thes. 1:1).

This was true of all local churches in the New Testament. None were identified as belonging to a fallible man. Rather, each one belonged to God and Christ (1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2).

The church belongs to Christ because he is the builder, foundation, and head of the church. Note that in **Matthew 16:18**, Jesus stated that *He* would build *His* church.

God noted Jesus’ relation to the church in **Colossians 1:18**: ***And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.***

Ephesians 1:22-23 says that God “*hath put all things under [Christ’s] feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.*”

As the head of the church, Christ must be looked to as the source of authority for all church practices (cf. **Matt. 28:18**).

A question that results from this is how we know if something is authorized by Christ.

Before He ascended into heaven, Christ assigned His apostles the work of teaching “***all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.***” (**Matt. 28:19-20**). The apostles carried out this command as they taught Christ’s doctrine. They were inspired by the Holy Spirit as they taught, and their doctrine was confirmed through the miracles God allowed them to perform (**Mark 16:20**).

This is why the early church continued “***steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine***” (**Acts 2:42**). The *apostles’* doctrine is *Christ’s* doctrine (cf. **Gal. 1:11-12**).

Since the written word is now complete, it is no longer necessary for men to be inspired by the Holy Spirit the way the apostles were. Rather, we can know God’s will by looking to the doctrine Christ and His apostles taught that is revealed in the New Testament.

If all who claim to follow Christ took this to heart, much division could be eliminated. Instead of focusing on fun and entertainment, churches would focus on being the “***pillar and ground of the truth***” (1 Tim. 3:15).

Instead of looking to men to establish doctrine, churches would simply follow *Christ’s* doctrine, respecting His role as the head of the church.

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

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 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

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”—Col. 3:12-14

Prayer List

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

Daily Bible Reading

April 29 – 2 Samuel 16-18; Luke 17:20-37
 April 30 – 2 Samuel 19-20; Luke 18:1-23
 May 1 – 2 Samuel 21-22; Luke 18:24-43
 May 2 – 2 Samuel 23-24; Luke 19:1-27
 May 3 – 1 Kings 1-2; Luke 19:28-48
 May 4 – 1 Kings 3-5; Luke 20:1-26
 May 5 – 1 Kings 6-7; Luke 20:27-47

“Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself:” –Eph. 1:8-9

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Bible Study: Don

Worship: Jim

Evening: Joe

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Darrell

Cleaning Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Upcoming Reminders

May 26: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

June 9: Vacation Bible School

Assignments

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Reading: Dan H

Announcements: Steve

Table: Travis

Serve: Steve

Don

Joe

Dave

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Invitation: Larry

Anniversaries

Birthdays

April 29 – Emily

April 29 – Jerry S

May 4 – Lovetta

May 10 – John