

September 23, 2018

“It Is Well With My Soul”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450
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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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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.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18: *Therefore we don't faint, but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; while we don't look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

These three verses show Paul's mindset toward the sufferings he endured as a Christian. No matter how difficult his life on earth was, the glory he brought to God and the eternal reward God promised made everything worth it.

Paul's attitude sets a good example for us to follow when facing *any* hardships. God desires His children to be so focused on Him that when things are tough, we will faithfully obey Him with patience and joy.

This type of attitude brings to remembrance the hymn *It Is Well With My Soul*. The words to the hymn were written by Horatio Spafford shortly after the death of his four daughters. The message of the song is that no matter how hard our temporal circumstances are, everything is OK as long as we are

“It Is Well With My Soul”

(Continued)

right with God. Notice the second verse of the song: *Tho’ Satan should buffet, tho’ trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

Consider both a good and bad example of this attitude from the book of **Job**. In **Job 1**, Satan killed Job’s children, servants, and animals (**verses 12-19**). Job said “***blessed be the name of the Lord***” after this (**verse 21**), and he “***did not sin, nor charge God with wrongdoing***” (**verse 22**).

In the second chapter, Satan “***struck Job with painful sores from the sole of his foot to his head.***” (**verse 7**). Job’s wife responded to this, “***Do you still maintain your integrity? Renounce God, and die***” (**verse 9**). Job answered, “***You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?***” (**verse 10**).

Job, unlike his wife, demonstrated the proper reaction to hardships.

Consider also the “exodus” generation of Israelites. God fulfilled His promise to lead them out of Egyptian bondage (**Exod. 12:41; Gen. 15:13-14**). Though they saw the “***great work***” God did in defeating the Egyptians (**Exod. 14:31**), the Israelites lacked gratitude toward,

and faith in, God. They murmured against Him constantly, suggesting it would have been better for them to stay in Egypt (**Exod. 16:2-3; 17:2-3; Num. 14:1-3**). On one occasion, they even murmured because the food God provided was not as tasty as they preferred (**Num. 11:4-6**).

The difference between the Israelites and people like the apostle Paul is not circumstances, but faith. Joy, hope, and peace in the midst of trials are by-products of focusing one’s life on serving God instead of serving self.

This attitude enabled Paul to write (while in prison), “***Not that I speak in respect to lack, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content in it***” (**Phil. 4:11**). As far as Paul knew, the next day could bring sorer trials than he had ever faced. Yet, Paul was content knowing that He had been redeemed from sin through Christ (**Eph. 1:7**). Paul’s life on earth was filled with trials, but he rejoiced with the knowledge that heaven will be a place of eternal comfort.

If we are right with God, we can be at peace. Whatever earthly “***state***” we are in, we can say, “*It is well with my soul,*” and proclaim, “*My sin, O the bliss of this glorious tho’t! My sin not in part but the whole, Is nailed to His cross and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*”

Area Gospel Meetings

Benton Church of Christ:

Sep. 30 - Oct. 5 (with Steve Niemeier)

Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 6:00; M-F: 7:00

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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

“Don't let kindness and truth forsake you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart.”—Proverbs 3:3

“Better is little, with the fear of Jehovah, Than great treasure and trouble therewith.”—Proverbs 15:16

Prayer List

- Holly
- Barb A
- Harold (Prostate Cancer)
- Sandy (Foot Injury)
- Betty
- Mabel
- Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
- Cheryl (Breast Cancer)
- Norma (Injuries from fall)
- Jerry G (Throat Cancer)
- Mattie B (Leukemia)
- Tom B (Pancreatic Cancer)
- Linda & Family
- Caleb & Darcy & Family
- Dody G
- Joe (Lung Cancer)
- Allen S (Cancer)
- Raymond

Daily Bible Reading

- Sep. 23 – Proverbs 27-29; 2 Cor. 10
- Sep. 24 – Proverbs 30-31; 2 Cor. 11:1-15
- Sep. 25 – Ecclesiastes 1-3; 2 Cor. 11:16-33
- Sep. 26 – Ecclesiastes 4-6; 2 Cor. 12
- Sep. 27 – Ecclesiastes 7-9; 2 Cor. 13
- Sep. 28 – Ecclesiastes 10-12; Gal. 1
- Sep. 29 – Song of Solomon 1-3; Gal. 2

“I considered my ways, and turned my steps to your statutes. I will hurry, and not delay, to obey your commandments.”—Psalm 119:59-60

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Bible Study: Jim

Worship: Travis

Evening: Joe

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Don

Cleaning Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Misty

Upcoming Reminders

Oct. 27: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, September 30, 2018

Reading: Dan H

Announcements: Don

Table: Travis

Serve: Steve

Dan D

John

Jim

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Invitation: Dave

Anniversaries

October 6 - Travis & Jessica

October 11 - Mike & Paula

Birthdays

September 24 - Maxwell

October 2 - Carlyle

October 4 - Norma