

December 16, 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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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.

“Judge Righteous Judgment”

By Michael Hickox

Jesus commanded in **John 7**, “*Don’t judge according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment*” (**verse 24**).

Consider some things taught here and in other passages about judging others.

Judging is Necessary - Perhaps one of the most well-known verses in Scripture is Jesus’ command “*Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged*” (**Matt. 7:1**).

Some may claim that this teaches we should *never* judge others. Yet, later in the book of **Matthew**, Jesus gave commands concerning how to handle erring brethren (**Matt. 18:15-17**). These commands are among many that imply a *need* for judging others.

More will be said later about the context of **Matthew 7**, but it is clear when looking at the totality of God’s teachings that judging others is at times necessary. Furthermore, when judging is done right, it is a good thing rather than a bad thing.

We Must Judge Fairly - While judging is a good thing when done right, it can do great harm if done wrong.

A key to avoid judging wrongly is to judge others with fairness.

In the **John 7** passage, Jesus preceded His command to judge righteously with an illustration of how the Jewish leaders were not doing that (see **verses 21-23**). They were guilty of judging Jesus *unfairly*.

“Judge Righteous Judgment”

(Continued)

We must not make false or careless accusations against others. When judging, we should gather available facts, and fairly consider those facts.

We Must Judge According to God’s Law - Furthermore, when we judge others’ righteousness, we should do so according to *God’s* commands, and not according to the opinions of *man*.

Notice what the Holy Spirit through Paul commanded in **Romans 14:3**: ***Don’t let him who eats despise him who doesn’t eat. Don’t let him who doesn’t eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.***

The context of this command deals with things God has given no preference concerning. If God neither requires nor forbids something, we have no right to accuse someone of sin because he or she chooses a different option than us.

If we judge someone as guilty of sin, such sin should be something that *God* teaches is wrong, and not merely based on our own opinions.

We Must Not Judge Hypocritically - Something else that is involved in judging righteously is to not judge hypocritically.

This takes us back to the passage in which Jesus said ***“Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged”*** (**Matt. 7:1**). The point Jesus was making in this

passage is driven home in **verse 5**: ***You hypocrite! First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother’s eye.***

It can be much easier to see faults in others than to see faults in oneself, but we should *foremost* focus on things we ourselves need to correct.

We Must Judge with Love - Another point concerning judging that is implied in Scripture is that judging should be done with love (**1 Cor. 16:14**).

When judging others, the goal should not be to “bring someone down,” “win” an argument, exalt ourselves, or any other selfish focus. Rather, the goal should be to please God and benefit other(s), including the one guilty of sin. **Galatians 6:1** teaches the need to point out faults ***“in a spirit of gentleness.”*** Such will be much easier if we have the love and humility we should.

Perhaps part of the reason judging is often viewed negatively is because it is often done unrighteously. The answer to this is not to assume that all judging is bad, but to do our part to ensure that we judge rightly.

God has told us all we need to know to judge others rightly. May we heed His Word and ***“judge righteous judgment.”***

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

“Therefore let us also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” –Hebrews 12:1-2

Prayer List

Holly G
Barb A
Harold B (Prostate Cancer)
Sandy S (Foot Injury)
Betty P
Mabel H
Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
Cheryl S (Breast Cancer)
Norma C (Injuries from fall)
Jerry G (Throat Cancer)
Mattie B (Leukemia)
Tom B (Pancreatic Cancer)
Linda & Family
Dody G
Joe B (Lung Cancer)
Allen S (Cancer)
Jeanette & Family
Raymond B
Lovetta D (Knee Replacement)

Daily Bible Reading

Dec. 16 – Hosea 1-4; Revelation 1
Dec. 17 – Hosea 5-8; Revelation 2
Dec. 18 – Hosea 9-11; Revelation 3
Dec. 19 – Hosea 12-14; Revelation 4
Dec. 20 – Joel; Revelation 5
Dec. 21 – Amos 1-3; Revelation 6
Dec. 22 – Amos 4-6; Revelation 7

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” –2 Timothy 3:16

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: Steve

Evening: Mike

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Carlyle

Cleaning Building

Paula

Prepare Communion

Paula

Upcoming Reminders

Dec. 22: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Larry

Serve: Harold

Steve

Carlyle

Dave

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Invitation: Dave

Anniversaries

Birthdays

December 21 - Linda

December 21 - Christie

December 22 - Jailyn

December 22 - Lauren

December 23 - Joe