

December 23, 2018

## “What is a Man Profited?”

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.

**Matthew 16:26:** *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

In **Matthew 16:26**, Jesus showed the folly of focusing one's life on earthly pursuits while disregarding God.

The writer of Ecclesiastes is one whose life demonstrates this principle. He sought pleasure through earthly wisdom, hobbies, possessions, fame, prestige, and the like (**Ecc. 1:16-2:10**). After gaining all of this, he called it “**vanity and a chasing after wind, and there was no profit under the sun**” (**Ecc. 2:11**).

Much of the things he sought after were not wrong in themselves, but they were prioritized wrongly. Many live today with similar misplaced priorities.

Understanding what lies after our brief time on earth should encourage us to focus foremost on being right with God (see **Heb. 9:27; 2 Pet. 3:10-12**).

Our life on earth is likened to “**a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away**” (**Jas. 4:14**). The chief thing each of us can do is to please God and thus prepare for what comes after our brief time on earth. May we remember Jesus' words, and choose the eternally profitable path of obeying God.

# Pride Comes Before a Fall

By Michael Hickox

**Proverbs 16:18: *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.***

The Bible repeatedly stresses the consequences of becoming puffed up with pride. This is taught through direct statements and through examples of people whose downfall is connected to their pride.

Consider, for instance, the fall of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to become wealthy and powerful from an earthly perspective (**Daniel 4:22**).

Nebuchadnezzar let his success “go to his head,” and became arrogant. As “**he was walking in the royal palace of Babylon...The king spoke and said, Is not this great Babylon, which I have built for the royal dwelling place, by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?**” (**Dan. 4:29-30**).

God answered the king’s arrogance by saying, “**O king Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you**” (**verse 31**). Nebuchadnezzar came to realize that “**those who walk in pride [God] is able to abase**” (**verse 37**). This is precisely what happened to him.

King Nebuchadnezzar’s descendant Belshazzar was also haughty. Belshazzar knew that when Nebuchadnezzar’s “**heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was deposed from his kingly throne**”

(**Dan. 5:20**). Yet, Belshazzar behaved in a way that led Daniel to tell him “**You, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, but have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven;**” (**verses 22-23**). Belshazzar’s pride led to *his* fall (**verses 28-31**).

Years before, a man named Uzziah was king over Judah. Initially, Uzziah “**did that which was right in the sight of the Lord**” (**2 Chron. 26:4**). “**But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense**” (**verse 16**).

Some priests tried to stop Uzziah, but the king resisted..“**and while he was wrath with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the Lord**” (**verse 19**).

Uzziah was a leper until the day he died (**verse 21**). His pride led to his fall.

The book of **Esther** details the pride of Haman, and his subsequent fall. The book of **Obadiah** speaks of Edom being deceived by pride, and the humbling God would bring upon them (cf. **verses 3-4**).

Scripture makes it clear that God humbles those who are puffed up with pride and refuse to humble themselves (**Matt. 23:12; Luke 18:14**). May we heed God’s warnings, and humble ourselves under His mighty hand (**1 Pet. 5:6**).

## 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

***“For you need endurance so that, having done the will of God, you may receive the promise. ‘In a very little while, He who comes will come, and will not wait. But the righteous will live by faith. If he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.’ But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the saving of the soul. Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen.”***

–Hebrews 10:36-11:1

## 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. 23 – Amos 7-9; Revelation 8  
Dec. 24 – Obadiah; Revelation 9  
Dec. 25 – Jonah; Revelation 10  
Dec. 26 – Micah 1-3; Revelation 11  
Dec. 27 – Micah 4-5; Revelation 12  
Dec. 28 – Michah 6-7; Revelation 13  
Dec. 29 – Nahum; Revelation 14

***“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”***

–Romans 10:17

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Bible Study: Dan D

Worship: Joe

Evening: Jim

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Travis

### **Cleaning Building**

Paula

### **Prepare Communion**

Paula

### **Upcoming Reminders**

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

### **Assignments**

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Reading: Dan D

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Dave

Serve: Travis

Roger

Jim

John

Wednesday, January 2, 2018

Invitation: Dan D

### **Anniversaries**

January 1 - Jerry & Sandy

January 3 - Dave & Donna

### **Birthdays**

December 23 - Joe

January 9 - Maxine

January 9 - Douglas

January 10 - Cynde