

January 13, 2019

Eagerly Desiring the Truth

By Michael Hickox

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.

Acts 17:11: Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

On Paul's "second missionary journey," he faced opposition in nearly every city he visited. When he arrived at Thessalonica, he taught at a Jewish synagogue for three Sabbath days, and ***"Some of them were persuaded, and joined Paul and Silas, of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and not a few of the chief women"*** (Acts 17:4). Certain of the Jews, though, rejected the teachings of Jesus, and set the city in an uproar (**verse 5**). These Jews, like many others, opposed the Messiah who was the very fulfillment of the law they claimed to follow (**Matt. 5:17**).

The Jewish Bereans described in **Acts 17:11**, however, did *not* oppose Christ. They were eager for the truth, regardless of its implications.

Why is it that so many reject needed change, instead of eagerly desiring truth like the Bereans of **Acts 17:11**?

"God is not a God of confusion" (1 Cor. 14:33). The plan He instructs us to follow is clearly taught in His Word. Man's resistance to God's teachings cannot be

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(Continued)

explained by His Word being too difficult to understand. Here are a few of the things that perhaps do help to explain it.

Ignorance – Many desire God to speak to them, yet rarely pick up the book through which He does. Many seek self-help, yet disregard the book that provides “***all things that pertain to life and godliness***” (2 Pet. 1:3). Many are looking for hope, yet neglect the words of eternal life (John 6:68). We can choose to dedicate adequate time to studying, or we can choose to look for excuses (cf. Luke 14:18-20). The Bereans chose wisely (cf. Acts 17:30).

Trusting People More than God – Some are diligent in studying, but reject God’s teachings when they conflict with things taught by men and/or women who are trusted.

Fellow Christians can be a big help in understanding the Bible, but if something a man or woman says conflicts with what God says, God’s Word must reign supreme.

Fear of Rejection – There can also be a temptation to reject God’s teachings out of fear of how others will react. Consider the attitude of certain rulers in John 12:42-43: ***Nevertheless even of the rulers many believed in Him, but***

because of the Pharisees they didn’t confess it, so that they wouldn’t be put out of the synagogue, for they loved men’s praise more than God’s praise.

In hindsight, it’s easy to see the foolishness of these chief rulers, but if we’re not careful, we can fall into the same trap as them.

Pride of Life – Some fail to change out of pride. If we are too proud to admit the need to change as God requires, God will humble us on the Day of Judgment (Matt. 23:12). Instead of being defensive when others try to help us save our souls, we should be humble and thankful.

The individuals from Berea described in Acts 17:11 were not overcome by these problems. They properly prioritized study of God’s Word. They did not refuse to make needed changes. They accepted God’s Word even if it proved their preconceived notions or prior beliefs wrong. These Bereans simply listened to what was taught, compared it to God’s Word, and changed their views to fit what He teaches (Acts 17:12).

May we all follow this example and examine “***the scriptures daily***” with a heart that eagerly desires the wonderful truth God has given us.

Area Gospel Meetings

Hazel Church of Christ:
January 25-27 (with Jarrod Jacobs)
F-Sat: 7:00; Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 5:00

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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

[Jesus speaking]: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep...I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and I’m known by my own; even as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep.”—John 10:11,14-15

Prayer List

Holly G
 Barb A
 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)
 Mike D (Broken Neck)
 Andrew A (Foot Injury)

Daily Bible Reading

Jan. 13 – Genesis 20-22; Matthew 6:19-34
 Jan. 14 – Genesis 23-24; Matthew 7
 Jan. 15 – Genesis 25-26; Matthew 8:1-17
 Jan. 16 – Genesis 27-28; Matthew 8:18-34
 Jan. 17 – Genesis 29-30; Matthew 9:1-17
 Jan. 18 – Genesis 31-32; Matthew 9:18-38
 Jan. 19 – Genesis 33-35; Matthew 10:1-20

“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword...” –Hebrews 4:12

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Bible Study: Darrell

Worship: Larry

Evening: Dan H

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Carlyle

Cleaning Building

Debbie

Prepare Communion

Debbie

Upcoming Reminders

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

Assignments

Sunday, January 20, 2019

Reading: Dan H

Announcements: Mike

Table: Harold

Serve: Roger

John

Travis

Jim

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Invitation: Travis

Anniversaries

Birthdays

January 15 - Mike

January 17 - Raymond