

March 17, 2019

Burying Our Talents

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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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

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.

When it comes to doing good, we must be cautious to avoid doing things that appear to be good but are not truly in harmony with God's will (cf. **Rom. 10:2**).

Yet, we cannot use caution for avoiding evil as an excuse for doing *nothing*. In **Matthew 25:14-30**, Jesus spoke a parable of three men entrusted by their master with talents.

The first was given five talents, and used them to gain five more. The second was given two talents, and likewise gained two more. The third was given one talent, and buried the talent in the ground out of fear.

When the master returned, he commended the five-talent man and the two-talent man, but reprimanded the one-talent man, calling him a "**wicked and slothful servant**" (**Matt. 25:26**).

Why was the one-talent man wicked and slothful? We do not read about him stealing from his lord or being dishonest. Rather, it was what he did *NOT* do that was sinful. The one-talent man had the ability and opportunity to do good, but neglected his *responsibility* to do good.

We *all* have abilities and opportunities *our* Lord has given *us* to do good. May we not be as the one-talent man and be condemned as wicked for "burying our talents."

The Pattern for Local Churches

By Michael Hickox

In **Acts 2**, we find that people who obey the Gospel are added to the Lord's church (**verse 47**). No human being, council of men, or congregation determines who is added to this church, but our all-knowing Lord reads the hearts and actions of all and adds those who meet *His* requirements to *His* church.

Many responsibilities of members of the Lord's church are individual in nature, but there are certain responsibilities that can only be met by being a part of a local group of saints. We therefore must join ourselves to a local church, as Paul did (**Acts 9:26; 11:26**).

There are over a dozen local churches identified by name in the New Testament. The church at Antioch (**Acts 13:1**), church at Corinth (**1 Cor. 1:2**), and church at Thessalonica (**1 Thess. 1:1**) are examples. These churches were made up of Christians living in a particular area who had been added by God to His universal church.

Regardless of size, race, or culture, local churches in the New Testament had a pattern to follow. In **1 Corinthians 4:17**, Paul used the phrase "***as I teach everywhere in every church.***" In **1 Corinthians 7:17**, he said "***so ordain I in all the churches.***" In **1 Corinthians 16:1**, he said regarding the collection for

the saints, "***as I gave order to the churches of Galatia, so also do ye.***"

The commandments the Holy Spirit gave to one church were the same commandments He gave to all churches. All local churches established in the first century (like those today) were (and are) bound by the Law of Christ.

The Law of Christ has been fully recorded in written form, and is accessed today through the New Testament. Through His Word, God gives us the pattern He expects churches to follow.

Mankind often looks to his own path over God's path in matters pertaining to the local church. Man may make the local church out to be something carnal that functions like a business merely trying to "attract numbers" and "grow capital," but this is not the New Testament truth of the local church's purpose.

Local churches following the New Testament pattern are simply Christians in a local area who exist to bring glory to God and help each other, and others, to be saved. They do this by being organized, working, and worshipping in the way God authorizes.

May we each ensure we are a part of a local church that abides in Christ's law, and strive to follow the pattern God has given us.

Area Gospel Meetings

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:
March 17-22 (with Jim Stauffer)
Sun: 9:30, 10:20, 6:00; M-F: 7:00

Casey Westside church of Christ:
March 21-24 (with Donnie Rader)
Th-F: 7:00; Sat: 6:00; Sun: 9:30, 10:20, 6:00

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:
March 24-29 (with Andrew Roberts)
Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 6:00; M-F: 7:00

Benton Church of Christ:
March 24-28 (with Ron Griffin)
Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 6:00; M-Th: 7:00

Mattoon Southside Church of Christ:
March 25-31 (with Phil Morgan)
M-Sat: 7:00; Sun: 9:30, 10:20, 6:00

River Ridge church of Christ:
March 31 - April 5 (with John Gibson)
Sun: 9:00, 10:00, 4:00; 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

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 (Hospice) & Family
 Linda & Family
 Dody G
 Joe B (Lung Cancer)
 Allen S (Cancer)
 Jeanette & Family
 Raymond B
 Mike D (Broken Neck)
 Everly G

Daily Bible Reading

Mar. 17 – Deut. 16-18; Mark 13:1-20
 Mar. 18 – Deut. 19-21; Mark 13:21-37
 Mar. 19 – Deut. 22-24; Mark 14:1-26
 Mar. 20 – Deut. 25-27; Mark 14:27-53
 Mar. 21 – Deut. 28-29; Mark 14:54-72
 Mar. 22 – Deut. 30-31; Mark 15:1-25
 Mar. 23 – Deut. 32-34; Mark 15:26-47

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, March 17, 2019

Bible Study: Joe

Worship: Mark

Evening: Mike

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Roger

Cleaning Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Misty

Upcoming Reminders

March 23: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

June 15: Vacation Bible School

Assignments

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Reading: Dan H

Announcements: Dave

Table: Roger

Serve: Mark

Mason

Steve

Harold

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Invitation: Travis

Anniversaries

March 22 - Raymond & Maxine

March 28 - John & Cynde

Birthdays