

May 5, 2019

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
-------------	---------

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.

Zealous for Good Works

By Michael Hickox

Speaking of “*our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*” (Titus 2:13), the Holy Spirit says “*who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good works*” (verse 14).

The words translated “zeal” or “zealous” in Scripture have reference to passion. More descriptively, the words have reference to *heat*. Being zealous involves being so passionate about something that it could be said we are “on fire” for whatever our zeal is directed toward.

This point is brought out in the Lord’s rebuke of the church at Laodicea. Notice **Revelation 3:15-16: *I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth.*** In verse 19, Jesus said, “***As many as I love, I reprove and chasten. Be zealous therefore, and repent.***” The Christians at Laodicea were apathetic in their service to God. Spiritually speaking, they were lukewarm. They were thus instructed to develop a burning zeal toward God.

The Bible teaches that such zeal must be properly directed. Zeal without knowledge causes harm rather than good (**Gal. 4:17; Phil. 3:6**).

Zealous for Good Works

(Continued)

Knowledge without zeal, though, will cause the Lord to be disgusted with us (**Rev. 3:15-16**). Thus, it is imperative to have both zeal *and* knowledge of how to *properly direct* that zeal.

This is indicated in the phrase “**zealous for good works**.” If our zeal is directed toward what God defines as a good work, it will please Him.

To know what God defines as a good work, we must look to the Bible (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**). More specifically, we today must look to what the New Testament authorizes as a good work (cf. **Col. 2:14**).

We should zealously study God’s Word (**Acts 17:11**), and examine ourselves by it (**2 Cor. 13:5**). When we see something in our lives that needs to be corrected, we should zealously correct it (cf. **2 Cor. 7:11**).

We should be zealous for opportunities to edify brethren (**1 Thes. 5:11**). We should be zealously engaged in worship we offer to God (**Eph. 5:19**). We should zealously help others as we have the opportunity (**Gal. 2:10**). We should be fervent in prayer (**Luke 18:1**), among other things.

Such zeal can be helped when we recognize the value of these things and appreciate them as we should.

Moreover, such zeal can be strengthened when we understand and appreciate the blessings God offers to all and bestows on His faithful children.

No matter how much good we have done from the world’s perspective, each of us who has reached the “age of accountability” has sinned against God (**Rom. 3:23**), and thus would be doomed for eternal condemnation without the blood of Christ (**Rom. 6:23**).

Yet, because of Christ, we can be justified, reconciled to God, and saved from His wrath (**Rom. 5:6-10**). The love of God and His Son that made these blessings possible must not be forgotten.

Appreciating God’s grace helps serve as motivation for zealously obeying Him (cf. **1 Cor. 15:10; 1 John 4:19**).

The church at Laodicea was made up of Christians who were apathetic toward God’s love and the service He commands. The seriousness of their lukewarm spirit is seen in the Lord’s words that he would vomit them out of his mouth (**verse 16**).

One who has not yet been “**baptized into Christ**” (**Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27**) for the forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38**) should zealously choose to do so. Yet, those who *have* done this must not become spiritually lukewarm like the Christians in Laodicea.

If we have been guilty of lukewarm service toward God, may we heed the Lord’s command in **Revelation 3:19: Be zealous therefore, and repent**. And may we properly direct that zeal toward what God says are good works.

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

+++++

Words to Consider

“Put on therefore, as God’s elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye: and above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful.” – Colossians 3:12-15

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S (Foot Injury)
Betty P
Mabel H
Norma’s Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
Cheryl S (Breast Cancer)
Norma C (Injuries from fall)
Mattie B (Leukemia)
Linda & Family
Dody G
Joe B (Lung Cancer)
Allen S (Cancer)
Jeanette & Family
Raymond & Maxine
Mike D (Broken Neck)
Everly G

Daily Bible Reading

May 5 – 1 Kings 8-9; Luke 21:1-19
May 6 – 1 Kings 10-11; Luke 21:20-38
May 7 – 1 Kings 12-13; Luke 22:1-30
May 8 – 1 Kings 14-15; Luke 22:31-46
May 9 – 1 Kings 16-18; Luke 22:47-71
May 10 – 1 Kings 19-20; Luke 23:1-25
May 11 – 1 Kings 21-22; Luke 23:26-56

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Bible Study: Dave

Worship: Michael

Evening: Harold

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Steve

Cleaning Building

Julzy

Prepare Communion

Julzy / June

Upcoming Reminders

May 25: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

June 15: Vacation Bible School

Assignments

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Mike

Table: Dave

Serve: Mason

Roger

Dan D

Steve

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

May 30 – Larry and Patsy

Birthdays

May 10 – John

May 23 – Jeanette

May 26 – David