

November 10, 2019

“Prayer Was Made”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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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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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.

Acts 12 records a time when “**Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church**” (verse 1). Herod put Peter in prison, intending to “**bring him forth to the people**” soon after (verses 3-4).

Notice **verse 5**: **Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.**

Verses 6-10 go on to record how God answered the ceaseless prayers of the church and delivered Peter out of prison.

This passage demonstrates one of the elements of prayer taught in Scriptures: intercessions. The word intercession refers to a prayer made on behalf of someone(s) else (see **1 Tim. 2:1-2**).

Notice the phrase “**without ceasing.**” Some translations say prayer was made “**earnestly.**” This shows the type of prayers we ought to pray for others: continuous and fervent.

There are a lot of ways we can help others: giving, encouraging, edifying, exhorting, showing hospitality, and more.

Yet, there is perhaps no greater thing we can do for others than to pray for them.

Like the church at the time of Peter’s imprisonment, may we all fervently pray on behalf of others.

God's Care and Understanding

By Michael Hickox

Philippians 4:6-7 says, "*In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.*"

How wonderful is it to know that God's care for us leads Him to *want* us to cast our cares on Him (**1 Pet. 5:7**)? It is sad when such a privilege is ignored.

As the hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* says, "O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer."

As the hymn *Did You Think to Pray?* says, "O how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day, So when life seems dark and dreary, Don't forget to pray."

While God's care should lead us to pray frequently and continuously, we should remember that God answers prayer according to *His* will.

There are some things we may be tempted to pray for that we know (through God's Word) are not in

harmony with His will. We should not pray for such things.

There are other things that, as far as we can know, *might* be in accordance with God's will, but they also might *not* be. Such things are not wrong to pray for, but we should desire God's will to be done above all.

An example of this is seen in **2 Corinthians 12**. In that chapter, the apostle Paul spoke about his thorn in the flesh (**verse 7**). Paul did not initially know what the Lord's will was for him concerning this thorn in the flesh. He prayed three times that it be removed (**verse 8**). He came to find out, though, that God did not intend to take this thorn in the flesh away (**verse 9**). Paul accepted God's answer, and became grateful for what good could come from his thorn in the flesh (**verse 10**).

The point is that God's care should not be confused with God promising to conform His will to ours. Though we may not always say these words, an *attitude* we should have when praying is, "***not my will, but yours, be done***" (**Luke 22:42**).

May we accept God's care and trust His perfect understanding.

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

“with all prayer and requests, praying at all times in the Spirit, and being watchful to this end in all perseverance and requests for all the saints:” – Ephesians 6:18

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,” – Colossians 4:2

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” – James 5:16

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Betty P
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Dody G
Joe B
Allen S (Cancer)
Raymond & Maxine
Randy & Kim S
Mike & Family
Ken & Chris F
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
Jeff D
Betty H (Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

November 10 – Jeremiah 34-36; Hebrews 2
November 11 – Jeremiah 37-39; Hebrews 3
November 12 – Jeremiah 40-42; Hebrews 4
November 13 – Jeremiah 43-45; Hebrews 5
November 14 – Jeremiah 46-47; Hebrews 6
November 15 – Jeremiah 48-49; Hebrews 7
November 16 – Jeremiah 50; Hebrews 8

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” – 1 Corinthians 1:18

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, November 10, 2019

Bible Study: Dan H

Worship: Steve

Evening: Darrell

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Larry

Clean Building

Deb

Prepare Communion

Deb

Upcoming Reminders

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

Study: Redeeming the Land (Ruth 4:1-6) &

"Take Off Your Sandal" (Ruth 4:7-12)

Assignments

Sunday, November 17, 2019

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Harold

Table: Dan H

Serve: Mike

Jim

John

Mark

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Invitation: Larry

Anniversaries

November 20 – Mike & Rowena

Birthdays

November 13 – Misty

November 20 – Patsy

November 21 – Tretyn

November 25 – Mason

November 27 – Roger