

December 29, 2019

“Count Your Blessings”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street

P.O. Box 683

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.

The hymn and phrase “*Count Your Blessings*” encourages one to have an attitude of gratitude, especially through trials. When Christians count our blessings, we realize that (1) they are innumerable, and (2) the problems we face are not worthy to be compared with our blessings.

The word most often used for “blessed” in the New Testament means “*fortunate, well off*” (see *Strong G3107*). Jesus says this describes the “**poor in spirit**,” those who “**mourn**,” the “**meek**,” those who “**hunger and thirst after righteousness**,” the “**merciful**,” the “**pure in heart**,” the “**peacemakers**,” and those “**persecuted for righteousness’ sake**” (**Matt. 5:3-10**). This shows that blessedness in God’s eyes is contingent on choosing to obey Him.

Those who choose to please God are blessed “**with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ**” (**Eph. 1:3**). These blessings are made possible through God sending His Son to be “**wounded for our transgressions**” and “**bruised for our iniquities**” (**Isa. 53:5**).

Jesus’ sacrifice makes it possible for us to be God’s children (**Eph. 1:5**),

“Count Your Blessings”

(Continued)

receiving His care through prayer and providence (**1 Pet. 3:12; 5:7**).

God has also given us His Word, which contains “***all things that pertain unto life and godliness***” (**2 Pet. 1:3**) and allows us to be “***thoroughly furnished unto all good works***” (**2 Tim. 3:17**).

While these things touch on what God has done for each of us individually, consider also the gratitude we can have for what God has done for and through others:

Paul wrote to the saints at Rome, “***I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all***” (**Rom. 1:8**). He told the Corinthians, “***I thank my God always on your behalf***” (**1 Cor. 1:4**). To the saints at Ephesus, Paul said, “***[I] cease not to give thanks for you***” (**Eph. 1:16**). He told the Philippians, “***I thank my God upon every remembrance of you***” (**Phil. 1:3**). To the Colossians, he said, “***We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you***” (**Col. 1:3**). To the Thessalonians, he said, “***We give thanks to God always for you all***”

(**1 Thess. 1:2**).

Earthly problems pale in comparison to the “***unspeakable gift[s]***” God offers (**2 Cor. 9:15**; cf. **Rom. 8:18**).

This doesn’t mean God’s children should never be sorrowful over things of this life (cf. **John 11:35**). There are times when it is appropriate to mourn (**Romans 12:15**), and it is OK to acknowledge circumstances that are not ideal.

Yet, our general state should be one of gratitude, and not anxiety (**Phil. 4:4-6**). Our affection should be focused on things above and not on things on this earth (**Col. 3:2**). Our treasures should lie in heaven, and not on earth (**Matt. 6:19-20**). Our priorities should lead us to remember God’s greatness and grace regardless of earthly circumstances.

If we count our blessings (and weigh them), it is apparent that even though life doesn’t always go our way, nothing we face can compare with the blessings God offers.

Thanks be to God for all of His unspeakable gifts.

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

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." – Joshua 24:15

"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms." – Psalm 95:1-2

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Betty P
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Joe B
Allen S (Cancer)
Raymond & Maxine
Randy & Kim S
Ken & Chris F
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
Betty H (Cancer)
June's Niece, Debbie
Roger H (Heart Surgery)
Berlyn & Guyla Y
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

December 29 – Habakkuk; Revelation 15
December 30 – Zephaniah; Revelation 16
December 31 – Haggai; Revelation 17
January 1 – Zechariah 1-4; Revelation 18
January 2 – Zechariah 5-8; Revelation 19
January 3 – Zechariah 9-14; Revelation 20
January 4 – Malachi; Revelation 21-22

"I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy Word."
– Psalm 119:16

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Bible Study: Harold

Worship: Darrell

Evening: Michael

Wednesday, January 1, 2019

John

Clean Building

Paula (Dec)

Prepare Communion

Paula (Dec)

Upcoming Reminders

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

Study: Women of the New Testament

Assignments

Sunday, January 5, 2019

Reading: Jim

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Mark

Serve: Carlyle

Mason

Roger

Dan D

Wednesday, January 8, 2019

Invitation: Mike

Anniversaries

January 1 – Jerry & Sandy

January 3 – Dave & Donna

Birthdays

January 9 – Maxine

January 9 – Douglas

January 10 – Cynde

January 15 – Mike

January 17 – Raymond