

February 2, 2020

## Helping the Poor

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.

In **Galatians 2:9**, Paul recounted how Peter, James, and John gave to he and Barnabas the “***the right hand of fellowship***.” The three primarily taught Jews, while Paul and Barnabas primarily preached to Gentiles. Paul went on to mention one thing Peter, James, and John exhorted him and Barnabas to do. **Galatians 2:10: *They only asked us to remember the poor – which very thing I was also zealous to do.***

New Testament examples of early Christians show God’s desire for *all* of His children to be zealous for helping the poor (**Acts 2:45; 4:34-35; 11:29-30**).

Fulfilling this responsibility can seem challenging when we consider the qualifier given in **2 Thessalonians 3:10: *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*** Those who are poor because of an unwillingness to work should be encouraged to *repent*.

While laziness should not be “enabled,” Scripture shows that laziness is far from the *only* cause of poverty.

**Amos 4:1** speaks against those who “***oppress the poor***” and “***crush the needy***,” inferring that poverty can be caused (or worsened) by oppression. People can be poor because they’ve had things stolen (**Heb. 10:34**). Some

# Helping the Poor

(Continued)

have been made poor because of famine (**Acts 11:28**), or other natural disasters. In other words, the poor includes much more than just those who are unwilling to work.

The poor and needy should receive our compassion. Notice **1 John 3:17**: ***But whoever has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, then closes his heart of compassion against him, how does God's love abide in him?*** Those who are "***rich in this present world***" (**1 Tim. 6:17**) are exhorted to be rich *in good works* and to be "***ready to distribute, willing to share***" (verse 18).

As zealous as we should be to help the poor, we should be careful to do so in accordance with God's pattern.

God established a weekly "***collection for the saints***" (**1 Cor. 16:1**). He commanded, "***Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him***" (verse 2).

This is God's pattern for raising funds for *all* authorized works of the church.

In the immediate context, though, the apostle Paul indicated that this collection would be used to carry aid to needy saints in Jerusalem (verse 3). This passage shows that local churches have biblical authority to provide for needy saints (not only those of their own number, but of other local churches as well).

Benevolence as a collective work of the church is specifically for *saints* though. Church benevolence in the New Testament was not an "evangelism tool" to attract the lost, but rather a work intended to help needy Christians. Moreover, church benevolence does not supersede family's obligation to provide for its own (cf. **1 Tim. 5:4, 8, 16**).

While benevolence as a collective work of the church is for needy saints, *individual* Christians have responsibility to help *both* brethren *and* non-Christians as we have the ability and opportunity.

**Galatians 6:10** says, "***As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.***"

This passage teaches about responsibilities of *individual* Christians, rather than the collective work of the church (cf. **verses 1-9**).

Notice, though, how this verse stresses our need to do the best we can to help others. While we must cautiously avoid unscriptural work in the area of benevolence, we must be zealous to pursue that which *is* scriptural. The effort we put forth to help the poor is of eternal significance (cf. **Matt. 25:31-46**).

Like the apostle Paul, may each of us be zealous to "***remember the poor.***"

## 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

***“that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error; but speaking the truth in love, we may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ, from whom all the body, being fitted and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase to the building up of itself in love.” – Ephesians 4:14-16***

## Prayer List

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

## Daily Bible Reading

February 2 – Exodus 21-22; Matt. 19  
February 3 – Exodus 23-24; Matt. 20:1-16  
February 4 – Exodus 25-26; Matt. 20:17-34  
February 5 – Exodus 27-28; Matt. 21:1-22  
February 6 – Exodus 29-30; Matt. 21:23-46  
February 7 – Exodus 31-33; Matt. 22:1-22  
February 8 – Exodus 34-35; Matt. 22:23-46

***“Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls.” – James 1:21***

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, February 2, 2020

Bible Study: John

Worship: Harold

Evening: Larry

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Carlyle

### **Clean Building**

Jeanette

### **Prepare Communion**

Jeanette

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Feb. 22: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.**

*Study: Women of the New Testament*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Mike

Table: Harold

Serve: Steve

Dave

Dan H

Jeff

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Invitation: Travis

### **Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

February 2 – Travis

February 8 – Betty

February 13 – Darrell

February 15 – Dan D

February 20 – Jeff

February 23 – Larry

February 28 – Donna G

February 28 – Sandy