

July 12, 2020

“Like All the Nations”

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.

The book of Exodus talks about God leading the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage and delivering the Old Law to them through Moses. The Law included many detailed commands. An underlying theme at the root of these commands was God’s charge, “***ye shall be holy; for I am holy***” (Lev. 11:44).

The Israelites were to enter a land in which they would be surrounded by nations that did not know God. The Israelites were to be different. They were commanded to be “***a holy nation***” (Exod. 19:6), set apart from evil and devoted to the LORD.

Soon after the Israelites entered Canaan, they rejected this responsibility. While the Israelites were generally obedient in the days of Joshua (**Judges 2:7**), the generation after this “***knew not the LORD***” (verse 10). They “***forsook the LORD God***” and “***followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger***” (verse 12). Instead of being holy, these Israelites were conformed to the nations around them.

In response to this, God punished the Israelites (**verses 14-15**). Yet, He “***raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them***” (verse 16). Several

“Like All the Nations”

(Continued)

judges were appointed over Israel, until the Israelites decided that having judges was not what seemed right in their eyes.

In **1 Samuel 8**, the Israelites told Samuel, “***thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations***” (verse 5).

Samuel pleaded with them to not go down this path, but the Israelites demanded a king. Why? **Verse 20a: *That we also may be like all the nations...***

God’s “***holy nation***” today is the church (**1 Pet. 2:9**). Instead of being “***like all the nations***,” the church is to be “***a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.***”

Yet, just as many Israelites wanted to be like the people around them, those who are part of Christ’s church can be tempted to want this as well. It can be embarrassing to be different. It can make one wonder if he or she is “odd.” For these reasons or others, many seek to follow God, yet fit in with the world at the same time.

This does not work. God commands us to not follow the pattern of the world (**Romans 12:2**). The majority of people in this world are on the road to eternal destruction (**Matt. 7:13**). There are “***few***” on the path to eternal life (**Matt. 7:14**). If

we are in the second group, we *will* be viewed as strange by many.

This does not mean that to please God, we should purposefully stand for the opposite of all that the majority stands for. Choosing hamburger over steak because the majority chooses steak does not make one holy. What *does* make one holy is submitting to God’s will, which most people don’t do.

Few people the Israelites came in contact with obeyed God. If the Israelites obeyed, their lives would be different.

So it is today. If we choose to obey God, our purpose for living will be different. The things we do with our time will be different. Our character will be different. Our conduct will be different. Our speech will be different. Our way of thinking will be different.

May God’s people today not strive to be “***like all the nations***,” but instead let God transform us according to *His* will. Like the Israelites, God’s people today must be holy. The Holy Spirit commands Christians, “***but just as He who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all of your behavior, because it is written, ‘You shall be holy; for I am holy’***” (**1 Pet. 1:15-16**).

Area Gospel Meetings

First City Church of Christ (Vincennes):

July 20-24 (with various speakers)

M-F: 7:00 (Eastern time)

Yale church of Christ:

July 20-24 (with L.A. Stauffer)

M-F: 7:00

*Our Gospel Meeting will be

August 9-14 with L.A. Stauffer*

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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

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Words to Consider

"Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you."– Ephesians 4:32

Prayer List

Holly G
 Sandy S
 Mabel H
 Cheryl S
 Norma C
 Raymond & Maxine
 Randy & Kim S
 Ken & Chris F
 Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
 Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
 Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)
 Donna G

Daily Bible Reading

July 12 – 2 Kings 1-3; Luke 24:1-35
 July 13 – 2 Kings 4-6; Luke 24:36-53
 July 14 – 2 Kings 7-9; John 1:1-28
 July 15 – 2 Kings 10-12; John 1:29-51
 July 16 – 2 Kings 13-14; John 2
 July 17 – 2 Kings 15-16; John 3:1-18
 July 18 – 2 Kings 17-18; John 3:19-36

"Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,"
 – Ephesians 6:14

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, July 12, 2020

Bible Study: Michael

Worship: Dan H

Evening: Steve

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Roger

Clean Building

Halls

Prepare Communion

Halls

Upcoming Reminders

**Our summer Gospel meeting is scheduled
for August 9-14 with L.A. Stauffer*

Assignments

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Roger

Table: Darrell

Serve: Harold

Mike

John

Mark

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Invitation: Jeff

Anniversaries

July 16 – Darrell & Sidney

Birthdays

July 12 – Holly

July 12 – Jessilyn