

January 10, 2021

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.

Judging Righteously

By Michael Hickox

Jesus commanded in **John 7**, “***Don’t judge according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment***” (verse 24).

Consider some things taught here and in other passages about judging others.

Judging is Necessary - Perhaps one of the most well-known verses in Scripture is Jesus’ command “***Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged***” (**Matt. 7:1**).

Some may claim that this teaches we should *never* judge others. Yet, later in the book of **Matthew**, Jesus gave commands concerning how to handle erring brethren (**Matt. 18:15-17**). These commands are among many that imply a *need* for judging others.

More will be said about the context of **Matthew 7**, but it is clear when looking at the totality of God’s teachings that judging others is at times necessary. Furthermore, when judging is done right, it is a good thing rather than a bad thing.

We Must Judge Fairly - While judging is a good thing when done right, it can do great harm if done wrong.

A key to avoid judging wrongly is to judge others with fairness.

In the **John 7** passage, Jesus preceded His command to judge righteously with an illustration of how the Jewish leaders were not doing that (see **verses 21-23**). They were guilty of judging Jesus *unfairly*.

Judging Righteously

(Continued)

We must not make false or careless accusations against others. When judging, we should fairly consider available facts.

We Must Judge According to God's Law - Furthermore, when we judge others' righteousness, we should do so according to God's commands, and not according to the opinions of *man*.

Notice what the Holy Spirit through Paul said in **Romans 14:3**: ***Don't let him who eats despise him who doesn't eat. Don't let him who doesn't eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.***

The context of this command deals with things God has given no preference concerning. If God neither requires nor forbids something, we have no right to accuse someone of sin because he or she chooses a different option than us.

If we judge someone as guilty of sin, such sin should be something that God teaches is wrong, and not merely based on our own opinions.

We Must Not Judge Hypocritically - Something else that is involved in judging righteously is to not judge hypocritically.

This takes us back to the passage in which Jesus said "***Don't judge, so that you won't be judged***" (**Matt. 7:1**). The point Jesus was making in this passage is driven home in **verse 5**: ***You hypocrite!***

First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.

It can be much easier to see faults in others than to see faults in oneself, but we should *foremost* focus on things we ourselves need to correct.

We Must Judge with Love - Another point concerning judging that is implied in Scripture is that judging should be done with love (**1 Cor. 16:14**).

When judging others, the goal should not be to "bring someone down," "win" an argument, exalt ourselves, or any other selfish focus. Rather, the goal should be to please God and benefit other(s), including the one guilty of sin. **Galatians 6:1** teaches the need to point out faults "***in a spirit of gentleness.***" Such will be much easier if we have the love and humility we should.

Perhaps part of the reason judging is often viewed negatively is because it is often done unrighteously. The answer to this is not to assume that all judging is bad, but to do our part to ensure that we judge rightly.

God has told us all we need to know to judge others rightly. May we heed His Word and "***judge righteous judgment.***"

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 when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as one dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, Fear not; I am the first and the last, and the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.” – Revelation 1:17-18

“These shall war against the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they also shall overcome that are with Him, called and chosen and faithful.” – Revelation 17:14

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
Roger S
Jeanette's Grandson, Oliver
L.A. S (COVID)

Daily Bible Reading

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

“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” – 1 Corinthians 1:18

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Bible Study: Steve

Worship: Darrell

Evening:

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Assignments

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Reading: Dan H

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Mike

Serve: Douglas

Mark

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Invitation:

Clean Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Upcoming Reminders

**Sunday afternoon services and Wednesday*

evening Bible classes are temporarily

suspended, due to effects of COVID

Anniversaries

Birthdays

January 10 – Cynde

January 15 – Mike

January 17 – Raymond