

February 28, 2021

Disciple of Christ

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.

Scripture uses a number of terms to refer to those who are Christians. For instance, everyone who is a true Christian is also a saint (**1 Cor. 1:2**), priest (**1 Pet. 2:5**), and citizen of Christ's kingdom (**Eph. 2:19**). Each of these terms helps us better understand responsibilities and privileges associated with being a Christian.

The same can be said for what is perhaps the most basic of terms Scripture assigns to the Christian: disciple of Christ (**Acts 11:26**).

The core meaning of the word translated disciple is "pupil" or "learner" (see *Strong G3101 & Thayer*). One who is a true disciple of Jesus first and foremost *learns* from Him.

Notice **Luke 11:1**: ***When He finished praying in a certain place, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."***

This is a simple but telling example of discipleship. Those who are Jesus' disciples have an eager desire to learn about Him and His teachings. They continuously "***grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,***" as all Christians are commanded to do (**2 Pet. 3:18**). Such growth is motivated by a strong spiritual appetite (**Matt. 5:6; 1 Pet. 2:2**).

Disciple of Christ

(Continued)

Those who have the interest in Jesus that is demanded of discipleship need not fear an inability to learn from Him. As the hymn *Hark, the Gentle Voice* says, "He will teach if you will learn." In other words, Jesus has left us with all that we need to learn from Him: His written Word. We need only study Scripture with diligence and the heart Jesus is looking for (**Luke 8:15**), and we will continuously learn from Him.

While learning from Christ is crucial, discipleship involves more than this. In **John 8:31**, Jesus said, "***If ye abide in my Word, then are ye truly my disciples.***" Abiding in His Word involves not only learning His teachings, but also *submitting* to them.

By abiding in His Word, the faithful disciple becomes continuously more *like* Him (**Luke 6:40**). For instance, the faithful disciple of Christ will develop an attitude of humble servitude, as Jesus exemplified (**John 13:13-15**). The faithful disciple is forgiving, like the Master (**Col. 3:13**), and faithfully does what is right through trials, like Jesus exemplified (**1 Pet. 2:21-23**).

Following Christ's leads also involves following Him into persecutions that inevitably result when one chooses to do what is right. Just as the Teacher faced mistreatment, His disciples should expect the same (**Matt. 10:24-25**).

While persecutions are inevitable for those who follow Christ, the faithful disciple is willing to accept whatever hardships result from this choice.

Jesus taught this principle in **Luke 9**. He warned about the sufferings He would soon face because He was choosing the Father's will above personal comfort (**verse 22**). He then "***said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me***" (**Luke 9:23**).

Just as Jesus denied Himself and accepted hardships to submit to the Father, those who are following Him do the same. Notice that self-denial is not just done one time, but "***daily***" (i.e., continuously). Jesus demands that we be willing to deny ourselves of *anything* that stands between us and Him. If we are not this loyal to Him, we cannot be His disciple (**Luke 14:26, 27, 33**).

While *becoming* a disciple of Jesus happens at once, these passages demonstrate that *being* Christ's disciple is a *lifestyle* of commitment.

The perfect Teacher has done His part. It is up to each of us to learn from Him, devote ourselves fully to His teachings, and loyally serve Him. This is the lifestyle of the true disciple of Christ.

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

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
L.A. S (COVID recovery)
Justice G (Perthes disease)

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Words to Consider

***“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD,
all ye lands. Serve the LORD with
gladness: come before His presence
with singing. Know ye that the LORD
He is God: it is He that hath made us,
and not we ourselves; we are His
people, and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with
thanksgiving, and into His courts with
praise: be thankful unto Him, and
bless His name. For the LORD is
good; His mercy is everlasting; and
His truth endureth to all generations.”***
– Psalm 100

Daily Bible Reading

February 28 – Habakkuk; Revelation 15
March 1 – Zephaniah; Revelation 16
March 2 – Haggai; Revelation 17
March 3 – Zechariah 1-4; Revelation 18
March 4 – Zechariah 5-8; Revelation 19
March 5 – Zechariah 9-14; Revelation 20
March 6 – Malachi; Revelation 21-22

***“For the Word of God is quick, and
powerful, and sharper than any
twoedged sword, piercing even to
the dividing asunder of soul and
spirit, and of the joints and marrow,
and is a discerner of the thoughts
and intents of the heart.”***
– Hebrews 4:12

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Bible Study: Douglas

Worship: Jim

Evening: Travis

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Assignments

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Reading: Dave

Announcements:

Table: Roger

Serve: Mark

Douglas

Clean Building

Jeanette (Feb) / Patty (Mar)

Prepare Communion

Jeanette (Feb) / Julzy (Mar)

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Invitation:

Upcoming Reminders

**Sunday afternoon services and Wednesday*

evening Bible classes are temporarily

suspended, due to effects of COVID

Anniversaries

March 22 – Raymond & Maxine

March 28 – John & Cynde

Birthdays

February 28 – Donna G

February 28 – Sandy

March 13 – Harold

March 15 – Anna

March 23 – Patty