

June 13, 2021

Personal Responsibility

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
-------------	---------

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.

After Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit in **Genesis 3**, Adam was questioned by God. He told God "***The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it***" (verse 12). When God asked Eve about this, she replied, "***The serpent deceived me, and I ate***" (verse 13).

While both rightly confessed "***I ate***," their confessions were prefaced by noting the role *someone else* had in their choice to eat. With Adam, it was the woman who God gave him. With Eve, it was the serpent.

Eve was a negative influence on Adam, and the serpent was a negative influence on Eve. Yet, Adam himself chose to sin, and so did Eve. Their disobedience was encouraged by others, but it was *their* disobedience.

As a creature created in God's image (**Gen. 1:26-27**), mankind has the ability to reason according to God's truth. We have the ability to distinguish between what God says is right and what God says is wrong. Moreover, we have the ability to *choose* to do what He says is right.

Personal Responsibility

(Continued)

God could have created us as “robots” that merely act as they are forced to, but He did not. Instead, He created people who have “free will” to obey or disobey.

While God *chooses* not to force us to obey Him, Satan *cannot* force us to disobey God. Satan tempts and deceives, but our “free will” allows us to say “no” (1 Cor. 10:13).

This brings us back to Adam and Eve. Even before eating the fruit, the two had enough reasoning capacity to decide to do right or decide to do wrong. They were each responsible for the path they chose. Eve did not force Adam to sin, and Satan did not force Eve to sin.

Following a bad influence, as Adam did, will not be an acceptable excuse on the Day of Judgment. Yes, “*many*” are headed down the broad path that leads to destruction (Matt. 7:13), but reasoning, “everybody else was doing it” will not be acceptable when we stand before Christ. Others can have a tremendous influence on us, just as

we can have a tremendous influence on others. But no one can force us to sin. We do so *willfully*.

Giving into deceitful lust and pride, as Eve did, will not be an acceptable excuse on the Day of Judgment either. Yes, Satan is vicious (1 Pet. 5:8). He was punished for his role in Eve’s sin (Gen. 3:14-15), and will not “get away” with his lies and deception in the long run (cf. Rev. 20:10). But we must not merely blame Satan every time we sin. God urges us to *resist* Satan (Jas. 4:7).

The point is that we have the *ability* to choose obedience, and we therefore have the *responsibility* to choose to obey God.

No matter what the majority does, and no matter what the wisdom of the world promotes, we have no excuse if we fail to heed God’s message.

May we each personally accept the responsibility we have for obeying God.

Area Gospel Meetings

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:

June 20-25 (with Ron Griffin)

Sun: 9:30 AM, 10:20 AM, 6:00 PM; M-F: 7:00 PM

+++++

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

+++++

Words to Consider

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

– Matthew 5:3-5 (ASV)

Prayer List

Holly G
 Sandy S
 Cheryl S
 Norma C
 Raymond & Maxine
 Barbara G (Cancer)
 Robert C
 Don C (Esophageal Cancer)
 Gerry S (Cancer in leg)
 Ken G (Pancreatic Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

June 13 – 1 Kings 8-9; Luke 21
 June 14 – 1 Kings 10-12; Luke 22:1-30
 June 15 – 1 Kings 13-15; Luke 22:31-46
 June 16 – 1 Kings 16-18; Luke 22:47-71
 June 17 – 1 Kings 19-20; Luke 23:1-25
 June 18 – 1 Kings 21-22; Luke 23:26-56
 June 19 – 2 Kings 1-3; Luke 24:1-35

"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." – Matthew 5:6 (ASV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Bible Study: Dan H

Worship: Steve

Evening: Darrell

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mike

Assignments

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Reading: Steve

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Mark

Serve: Mike

John

Clean Building

Cynde

Prepare Communion

Linda

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Invitation: Dave

Upcoming Reminders

Aug 8-13: Gospel Meeting (with Jim Stauffer)

Anniversaries

June 13 – Douglas & Madison

June 23 – Mason & Stephanie

Birthdays

June 16 – Jenna