

September 12, 2021

Burying Our Talents

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.

When it comes to doing good, we must be cautious to avoid doing things that appear to be good but are not truly in harmony with God's will (cf. **Rom. 10:2**).

Yet, we cannot use caution for avoiding evil as an excuse for doing *nothing*. In **Matthew 25:14-30**, Jesus spoke a parable of three men entrusted by their master with talents.

The first was given five talents, and used them to gain five more. The second was given two talents, and likewise gained two more. The third was given one talent, and buried the talent in the ground out of fear.

When the master returned, he commended the five-talent man and the two-talent man, but reprimanded the one-talent man, calling him a "**wicked and slothful servant**" (**Matt. 25:26**).

Why was the one-talent man wicked and slothful? We do not read about him stealing from his lord or being dishonest. Rather, it was what he did *NOT* do that was sinful. The one-talent man had the ability and opportunity to do good, but neglected his *responsibility* to do good.

We all have abilities and opportunities *our* Lord has given *us* to do good. May we not be as the one-talent man and be condemned as wicked for "burying our talents."

Called to Be Different

By Michael Hickox

1 Peter 2:9: *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

The phrases used by the apostle Peter to describe Christians indicate that Christians are to be different from the world.

God has long desired His chosen people to be different from others. When God delivered the Israelite law to Moses at Mt. Sinai, it was intended to set the Israelites apart from other nations. If they chose to follow God's commands, they would be very unique.

New Testament Christians make up the "***Israel of God***" (**Gal. 6:16**), and are called to be different from "spiritual Gentiles," i.e., those outside Christ's body.

Christians should be different in our very purpose in life. As the Holy Spirit through Paul instructed the Corinthian brethren, "***Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God***" (**1 Cor. 10:31**).

Later, Paul stated that his *aim* is to be well pleasing to God (**2 Cor. 5:9**). Such an aim is far different from the world's focus.

Our aim to please God should lead to differences in who we are. The world's wisdom encourages individuals to be proud and self-focused, setting our affections on whatever "makes us happy."

Yet, Jesus says it is the meek who are blessed by God (**Matt. 5:5**). Christians are not taught to seek preeminence, but to lower ourselves for the glory of God and the benefit of others (cf. **Luke 22:24-26**). Having this character will make us different from the majority.

The differences in why we live and who we are should lead to differences in *how* we live. For instance, when others are making plans to go to the local bar, Christians may be spending the night praying or studying the Bible with friends or family members.

Just as Jesus was set apart from the world, His followers are to be set apart from the world (**Rom. 12:2**). There is no need to be ashamed of these differences. Rather, there is reason to rejoice for the chance to follow in Jesus' steps, and be a light amidst the darkness (**Phil. 2:15**).

Let us choose to live for the glory of God and not be ashamed of the differences that result.

Area Gospel Meetings

Robinson Church of Christ:
September 16-18 (Various speakers)
Thurs-Fri: 7:00 PM; Sat: 6:30 PM

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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

"Watch! Stand firm in the faith! Be courageous! Be strong! Let all that you do be done in love."

– 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (WEB)

Prayer List

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

Daily Bible Reading

September 12 – Proverbs 10-12; 1 Cor 16
September 13 – Proverbs 13-15; 2 Cor 1-2
September 14 – Proverbs 16-18; 2 Cor 3-4
September 15 – Proverbs 19-21; 2 Cor 5-6
September 16 – Proverbs 22-24; 2 Cor 7
September 17 – Proverbs 25-26; 2 Cor 8-9
September 18 – Proverbs 27-29; 2 Cor 10

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;"

– Proverbs 2:6 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Bible Study: Steve
Worship: Darrell
Evening: Michael

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Jeff

Clean Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Donna G

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday adult class:

Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God

Lesson 3 (Envy and Jealousy)

Assignments

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Reading: Larry
Announcements: Steve
Table: Roger
Serve: Mike
Travis
John
Jim

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Invitation: Jeff

Anniversaries

Birthdays

September 15 – Emory
September 20 – Michael