

January 2, 2022

## Resolve to Please God

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.

At the start of a new year, it's common for people to make resolutions. At this and all times of the year, the Bible teaches certain things we should each resolve to do that are of great significance. Consider a few "resolutions" we can make at *any* time during our lives on earth that are in line with what God commands of us in His Word:

Put First Things First: One thing we should always determine to do is to "put first things first" in life. Notice what **Ecclesiastes 12:13** says in relation to this: ***This is the end of the matter. All has been heard. Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.***

There is nothing more significant in our lives than submitting to what God commands of us. One who is not a Christian should thus resolve to get "**into Christ**" as God commands, through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism (**Gal. 3:27**; cf. **Acts 2:38** and **8:36-38**).

Those who *are* New Testament Christians should determine to prioritize rightly. Recognizing that we belong to God (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**), we should resolve to let Him direct us as He pleases.

Pray Fervently: A specific way God wants His children to obey Him is through fervent prayer. The inspired apostle Paul commands, "**In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition**

## Resolve to Please God

(Continued)

*with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God*” (Phil. 4:6). If we do this, we are told, “*the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus*” (verse 7).

God not only *allows* us to go to Him in prayer with problems we face...He *wants* us to do this. Notice **1 Peter 5:7**: *casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He careth for you.*

Prayer is an expression of our dependence on, and faith in, God. When it is done properly, it has tremendous power (**James 5:16**).

We should recognize the value of prayer, have gratitude that leads us to thank God through prayer (**1 Thess. 5:18**), and earnestly cast our cares on God while asking for His help in our own lives and the lives of others (**1 Tim. 2:1-2**).

Study Diligently: We should also determine to diligently study God’s Word. In **1 Peter 2:2**, the Holy Spirit through Peter commands Christians, “*as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.*”

We should determine to be like the noble Bereans described in **Acts 17:11** who “*received the Word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were*

*so.*” The Bereans’ behavior emphasizes not only a hunger and thirst for the Word, but also a thoughtful consideration of things taught as doctrine, with a sincere desire to know if such things are from God.

We should all have a longing to know the truth, and to *apply* that knowledge as needed in our lives (**James 1:22**).

Build Character: Another specific way God desires His children to serve Him is by developing the character He desires. At all times throughout the year, we should strive to be growing in character to better please God.

Consider, for instance, God’s command to “*put on...a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering*” (**Col. 3:12**). We are also commanded “*add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity*” (**2 Pet. 1:5-7**). It is evident that God expects us to grow in character.

Determining to follow these and other instructions from God’s Word will be profitable not just for a year, but for eternity. May we be resolved to please God by obeying what He commands us.

## 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  
Jerry & Sandy S  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond B  
Barbara G (Cancer)  
Robert C  
Sharon G (Cancer)  
Doans' Grandson, Wilson  
Carlyle B  
Ken & Christine F  
Devin D (Cancer)

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## Words to Consider

***“As is your name, God, so is your  
praise to the ends of the earth.***

***Your right hand is full of  
righteousness.”***

**– Psalm 48:10 (WEB)**

***“But this I call to mind, and therefore I  
have hope: The steadfast love of  
the LORD never ceases; his  
mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great  
is your faithfulness.”***

**– Lamentations 3:21-23 (ESV)**

## Daily Bible Reading

January 2 – Genesis 4-6; Matt. 2  
January 3 – Genesis 7-9; Matt. 3  
January 4 – Genesis 10-12; Matt. 4  
January 5 – Genesis 13-15; Matt. 5:1-26  
January 6 – Genesis 16-17; Matt. 5:27-48  
January 7 – Genesis 18-19; Matt. 6:1-18  
January 8 – Genesis 20-22; Matt. 6:19-34

***“Blessed are those who keep his  
testimonies, who seek him with  
their whole heart, who also do no  
wrong, but walk in his ways!”***

**– Psalm 119:2-3 (ESV)**

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Bible Study: John

Worship: Dave

Evening: Larry

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Dan D

### **Clean Building**

Patty

### **Prepare Communion**

Patty

### **Upcoming Reminders**

#### **Wednesday adult class:**

*Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God*

*Lesson 12 (Lack of Brotherly Love) &*

*Lesson 13 (Self-control)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Reading: Dave

Announcements: Roger

Table: Jeff

Serve: Dan D

Mike

Roger

Travis

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Invitation: Dan D

### **Anniversaries**

January 3 – Dave & Donna

### **Birthdays**

January 9 – Douglas

January 10 – Cynde

January 15 – Mike

January 17 – Raymond