

January 16, 2022

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.

The Commitment Christ Demands

By Michael Hickox

In **Luke 14**, Jesus spoke of the commitment of being His disciple. Using illustrations such as counting the cost before building a tower (**verses 28-30**), Jesus pointed out the need to “count the cost” (i.e., the commitment required) of *following Him* (**verses 26-27,33**).

In **Luke 14:26**, Jesus said, “***If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.***”

Jesus’ point in this verse is not to encourage hatred, but to teach that we must not allow *anyone* to come between us and pleasing God (cf. **Matt. 10:37**).

Being an obedient Christian often involves going against what someone we are close to desires of us. It may involve angering a family member or close friend. Jesus does not want us to seek conflict *for the sake of conflict* (**Rom. 12:18**), but He desires us to follow Him, regardless of what conflicts may result (cf. **Matt. 10:34-37**). Facing rejection is an unfortunate but real part of following Christ (cf. **2 Tim. 4:16**).

Jesus went on to say in **Luke 14:33**, “***whoever of you who doesn’t renounce all that he has, he can’t be my disciple.***”

The Commitment Christ Demands

(Continued)

Jesus' point *here* is not that we must make ourselves miserable while on earth, but that we must not allow *anything* to come between us and pleasing God.

Developing the mindset Jesus is calling for requires us to see Christianity the way it is described in the New Testament.

Romans 12:1 says, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*" This is a *lifestyle* of commitment to God.

When Paul was in prison and uncertain about his future, he said "**For to me live is Christ, but to die is gain**" (Phil. 1:21).

Notice the phrase "**for me to live is Christ.**" Christ was not just a part of Paul's life. He was the *center* of it.

Because of Paul's dedication to the Lord, he was willing to make drastic changes. Imagine how uncomfortable it would have been for him to turn from zealously opposing Christ to zealously working for Christ. Making uncomfortable changes is part of the commitment of following Christ.

Much of what makes changing for Christ difficult is the reaction we receive from others. Friends who we once joined with in sinful activities may think we're strange,

and speak badly of us (**1 Pet. 4:4**). We must accept this to follow Christ.

Being spoken evil of because of our stand for the truth is an example of persecution. Persecution for Christ's sake is part of the "cost" of following Him. Paul told Timothy "**all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution**" (2 Tim. 3:12). For Paul, this included *physical* persecution.

In our time and place, persecution may be mental. We might be treated harshly even if we are not *physically* harmed for our stand for truth (cf. **Matt 5:10-12**). We might be taken advantage of for doing what's right (cf. **Rev. 13:17**).

The point of all of this is that following Christ is not just about sacrificing a fishing trip on Sunday morning to assemble with saints. This could be included, but it just scratches the surface of the commitment of following Christ.

We must develop the character of Christ (**2 Pet. 1:5-8**), study diligently (**Acts 17:11**), and pray without ceasing (**1 Thess. 5:17**), among other things.

If *anything* stands in the way of *any part* of God's will for our lives, we must separate ourselves from it. This is the message of **Luke 14:26-33**.

Area Gospel Meetings

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:
Jan. 28-30 (with Jason Hosfield)
Fri-Sat: 7:00; Sun: 9:00, 10:00, 5:00

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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

***“Let not steadfast love and
faithfulness forsake you; bind
them around your neck; write them
on the tablet of your heart.”***
– Proverbs 3:3 (ESV)

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)
Vicki S (Cancer)
Christie’s sister-in-law, Diane

Daily Bible Reading

January 16 – Genesis 39-40; Matt. 11
January 17 – Genesis 41-42; Matt. 12:1-23
January 18 – Genesis 43-45; Matt. 12:24-50
January 19 – Genesis 46-48; Matt. 13:1-30
January 20 – Genesis 49-50; Matt. 13:31-58
January 21 – Exodus 1-3; Matt. 14:1-21
January 22 – Exodus 4-6; Matt. 14:22-36

***“Trust in the LORD with all your
heart, and do not lean on your own
understanding.”*** – Prov. 3:5 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Bible Study: Mark

Worship: Roger

Evening: Mike

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Jeff

Clean Building

Patty

Prepare Communion

Patty

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (19th) adult class:

The Book of James

Next Sunday (23rd) adult class:

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Assignments

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Reading: Mark

Announcements: Steve

Table: Roger

Serve: Darrell

Dan H

Travis

Jim

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Invitation: Mike

Anniversaries

Birthdays

January 17 – Raymond

February 2 – Travis