

January 23, 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.

“Blessed Are the Merciful”

By Michael Hickox

God’s mercy is well exemplified in the life of the apostle Paul. Before Paul was converted, he bore the name Saul and zealously persecuted those who followed Jesus (**Acts 8:3**).

As he was traveling to Damascus to find Christians to persecute, Saul was met by Jesus who asked, “**Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?**” (**Acts 9:4**). Saul learned that he had been living in sin. He learned what he needed to do to be forgiven, and then did it. Because of Saul’s repentance and choice to obey God, the grace of God was extended to him.

When Paul looked back on this, he realized that he was undeserving of God’s mercy (**1 Tim. 1:15-16**).

In his letter to the Romans, Paul pointed out that we have *all* done things that make us undeserving of God’s mercy. **Romans 3:23: *For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;***

No matter what an individual has done in the past, though, he or she can be forgiven by God through obedience. This is a testament to the merciful character of our Creator.

The mercy God directs toward

“Blessed Are the Merciful”

(Continued)

mankind is strong motivation for *us* to show mercy to *others*. In **Matthew 5:7**, Jesus said, “***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.***”

Part of showing mercy, or pity, toward others involves giving a helping hand to those in need as we have the ability and opportunity (cf. **Luke 6:35-36**).

A more specific way we should show mercy is to show a willingness to forgive, as God has toward us. Like God demonstrated with His attitude toward Saul of Tarsus, He desires the salvation of sinners, instead of harboring resentment toward us for sins we’ve committed (cf. **2 Pet. 3:9**). We should likewise have this merciful spirit toward those who’ve mistreated us.

In **Matthew 18:23-35**, Jesus spoke a parable that well-illustrates how God’s mercy should affect us. This parable tells of a servant whose master was willing to forgive him of a debt he could not pay, but this same servant was unwilling to show mercy toward a *fellow* servant.

An interesting thing about this parable is that the servant owed his master “***ten thousand talents***” (verse 24), while his

fellow servant owed him “***one hundred denari***” (verse 28). The servant owed his master about 600,000 times as much as his fellow servant owed him.

This contrast has a lesson for us. No matter how much one has wronged us, it doesn’t compare to how much we have wronged God. Without Christ’s sacrifice, the “debt” we owe God could never be paid. If God is willing to show us mercy, how much more should we be willing to show others mercy?

To look at the other side of the coin, if we are *unwilling* to show others mercy, God will not show us mercy. This is seen in **Matthew 5:7** when we consider that it’s those who are merciful to others who “***shall obtain mercy***” (cf. **Matt. 6:14-15**).

While it’s God’s *preference* for *each* of us to receive His mercy, He won’t *force* us to receive it.

Part of the recipe for accepting His mercy is to show mercy toward others. God’s own character provides an example and strong motivation for heeding this instruction.

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

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”
– John 1:14 (NKJV)

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 23 – Exodus 7-8; Matt. 15:1-20
January 24 – Exodus 9-11; Matt. 15:21-39
January 25 – Exodus 12-13; Matt. 16
January 26 – Exodus 14-15; Matt. 17
January 27 – Exodus 16-18; Matt. 18:1-20
January 28 – Exodus 19-20; Matt. 18:21-35
January 29 – Exodus 21-22; Matt. 19

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” – John 1:18 (NKJV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Bible Study: Dan D

Worship: Jim

Evening: Travis

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Douglas

Clean Building

Patty

Prepare Communion

Patty

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (26th) adult class:

James 1:5ff

Next Sunday (30th) adult class:

The Crucifixion of Jesus &

The Resurrection of Jesus

Assignments

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Reading: Steve

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Travis

Serve: Roger

Dave

Dan D

John

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Invitation:

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 2 – Travis

February 13 – Darrell

February 15 – Dan D

February 20 – Jeff

February 23 – Larry

February 28 – Donna G

February 28 – Sandy