

February 13, 2022

“Seek Ye First”

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.

Matthew 6:25-34 is among the many Bible passages that speak about *priorities*. Jesus' words in **verse 33** of this passage, “***seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you,***” do not teach that following Christ will make one materially wealthy.

Rather, the teaching is that if we serve God to the best of our ability, things will ultimately be OK for us (cf. **Rom. 8:28**). Moreover, if we truly seek *first* the kingdom of God, we'll recognize the superior value of the spiritual riches God offers in comparison to earthly riches.

Such a mindset is totally different from the mindset of the world. Consider the people deemed important by the world. Those who gain riches, fame, power, or prestige are often praised for such “success.” Gaining such things is not necessarily wrong, but what is *really* important is far different from these.

What's far more important than what the world emphasizes are questions like, am I a godly example

“Seek Ye First”

(Continued)

(**Matt. 5:13-16**)? Do I help those in need (**Gal. 6:10**)? Is the fruit of the Spirit shown in my character and conduct (**Gal. 5:22-23**)? Do I pray ceaselessly (**1 Thess. 5:17**)?

Jesus Himself often had little of the things most people consider important. He said in **Luke 9:58**, “*foxes have holes, and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.*”

Our culture encourages “self-promotion,” but Jesus said “*whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted*” (**Matt. 23:12**). While our society promotes getting “to the top,” Jesus “*came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many*” (**Matt. 20:28**).

The contrast between what Jesus prioritizes and what our society considers significant makes one wonder if Jesus would *really* be honored if He walked on earth today, or if He would be treated as “second-class” for being meek and poor.

Just as we must prioritize rightly in our personal lives, we must have our priorities straight when it comes to the local church.

Many “church-goers” focus on the quality of church buildings, the entertainment during assembly times, and the numbers that big buildings and entertainment often produce.

What God prioritizes, though, are things like love (**1 Thess. 3:12**), unity (**1 Cor. 1:10**), spiritual growth of the body (**Eph. 4:13-16**), and soundness of doctrine (cf. **Titus 2:1**).

Many desire teaching from eloquent speakers who will teach what makes listeners feel good (cf. **2 Tim. 4:3-4**). What matters to God, though, is that we be “*speaking the truth in love*” (**Eph. 4:15**), using His Word as our guide (**1 Pet. 4:11**).

These examples contrast what most think is important with what is most important according to God. May we shape our thinking and priorities according to what *God* says, and truly put first things first.

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

“Know this for sure, that no sexually immoral person, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God.”

– Ephesians 5:5 (WEB)

“For you were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, proving what is well pleasing to the Lord.”

– Ephesians 5:8-10 (WEB)

Prayer List

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

Daily Bible Reading

February 13 – Lev. 14; Matt. 26:51-75
February 14 – Lev. 15-16; Matt. 27:1-26
February 15 – Lev. 17-18; Matt. 27:27-50
February 16 – Lev. 19-20; Matt. 27:51-66
February 17 – Lev. 21-22; Matt. 28
February 18 – Lev. 23-24; Mark 1:1-22
February 19 – Lev. 25; Mark 1:23-45

“Therefore don't be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” – Ephesians 5:17 (WEB)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Bible Study: Dan H

Worship: Steve

Evening: Darrell

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Mike

Clean Building

Halls

Prepare Communion

Halls

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (16th) adult class:

James 3:1ff

Next Sunday (20th) adult class:

The Resurrection of Jesus &

Fasting

Assignments

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Reading: Dan D

Announcements: Jeff

Table: Steve

Serve: Mark

Travis

Mike

John

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Invitation: Jeff

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 13 – Darrell

February 15 – Dan D

February 20 – Jeff

February 23 – Larry

February 28 – Donna G

February 28 – Sandy