

February 20, 2022

“Fervent in Spirit”

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 |
|-------------|---------|

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.

In **Acts 18**, we are introduced to a man named Apollos, who was a Jew, “**born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures**” (verse 24). He had been “**instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord,**” (verse 25). He knew “**only the baptism of John**” (verse 25) initially, but was taught the need for baptism in the name of Christ by Aquila and Priscilla (verse 26).

The phrase “**fervent in the spirit**” used to describe Apollos is an important phrase. In **Romans 12:11**, the Holy Spirit says this phrase should be true of each of us. Speaking of what we should be and not be, He says: “**not lagging in diligence; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;**”

The Greek word translated “**fervent**” in both **Acts 18:25** and **Romans 12:11** is the root of the word often translated “**zeal**.” This word literally means “*to boil with heat, be hot*” (Thayer, see Strong G2204).

“Fervent in Spirit”

(Continued)

It is used metaphorically at times to refer to one who is so passionate about something that it could be said he or she is “on fire.” Apollos had this much passion for the Lord.

The *lukewarm* church at Laodicea exemplified the more common approach to the will of God. The Lord commanded them, “***be zealous therefore, and repent***” (Rev. 3:19). Serving God is not something to be apathetic toward. The Laodiceans needed to get “fired up” for the Lord.

While God wants us to be zealous, He tells us that zeal must be properly directed.

In **Galatians 1:14**, Paul spoke of “***being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of [his] fathers***” prior to his conversion. In **Philippians 3:6**, he said “***concerning zeal, persecuting the church.***” Like those Jews he spoke of in **Romans 10:2**, Paul had “***a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge***” prior to his conversion.

These passages show that it is

possible to be zealous for something, yet be wrong. What’s more, it is possible to be zealous *for God*, yet be entirely wrong. Like Paul came to realize, our zeal must be based on God’s truth. The many contradicting beliefs among those who claim to be Christians indicates that many today have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. God’s Word does not contradict itself.

God wants us to be fervent for the truth that is revealed in His Word (cf. **Rom. 1:16**). He wants us to be zealous for good works (**Titus 2:14**), based on what *His Word* tells us is a good work (cf. **2 Tim. 3:16-17**).

Apollos’ fervency caused him to “***mightily [convince] the Jews***” that Jesus is Christ (**Acts 18:28**). He loved God’s truth and was eager to share it with others, while putting it into practice in his life.

To please God, we must, like Apollos, be fervent for the Lord as He commands.

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

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.” – John 15:4-6 (ESV)

Prayer List

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

Daily Bible Reading

February 20 – Leviticus 26-27; Mark 2
February 21 – Numbers 1-2; Mark 3:1-19
February 22 – Numbers 3-4; Mark 3:20-35
February 23 – Numbers 5-6; Mark 4:1-20
February 24 – Numbers 7-8; Mark 4:21-41
February 25 – Numbers 9-11; Mark 5:1-20
February 26 – Numbers 12-14; Mk. 5:21-43

“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.” – John 15:10 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Bible Study: Jeff

Worship: Mark

Evening: Roger

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Douglas

Clean Building

Halls

Prepare Communion

Halls

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (23rd) adult class:

James 4:4ff

Next Sunday (27th) adult class:

The Resurrection of Jesus &

Fasting

Assignments

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Dan D

Table: Darrell

Serve: Jeff

Dave

Mark

Roger

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Invitation:

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 20 – Jeff

February 23 – Larry

February 28 – Donna G

February 28 – Sandy