

March 6, 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.

“Now is the Acceptable Time”

By Michael Hickox

2 Peter 3:9 says that *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

While this verse emphasizes how longsuffering God is, the very next verse teaches that *“the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up”* (verse 10).

Though God is longsuffering, the Day of Judgment *will* come, and it could come at any moment. At that time, every person who has ever lived will be judged (**2 Cor. 5:10**).

A key lesson this teaches us is that we must take advantage of the opportunity to be right with God *now*. If we continually put off what God requires of us for “some other time,” there will soon not be “some other time.”

The Bible gives examples of people who failed to obey God when they had the chance, and regretted this when it was too late.

Take, for instance, the rich man of **Luke 16:19-31**. This rich man had

“Now is the Acceptable Time”

(Continued)

opportunities to please God, but he chose not to. After the rich man died, he was “**in torment**” (verse 23), and wished for relief, but it was too late (verses 24-26). At that point, the (formerly) rich man could only wish he had behaved differently when he had the chance.

In **Matthew 25:1-13**, Jesus spoke the parable of the ten virgins. While five of the virgins were prepared when the bridegroom came, the other five were not. Those who were unprepared were not able to enter the wedding feast (verses 10-12).

The lesson of the parable was given by Jesus in **verse 13: *Watch therefore, for you don't know the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*** We will be proven foolish if we fail to prepare for that time.

Despite these truths, many choose to procrastinate obedience to God. Like Felix in **Acts 24:25**, many don't want to commit to what is needed for salvation, and thus decide to put it off until a time “**when it is convenient.**”

Whether one has not been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**), or one *has* been but has since allowed something to come

between him or her and God, there is no better time to make things right than the present.

As the inspired apostle told the Corinthians, “**Behold, now is the acceptable time. Behold, now is the day of salvation**” (2 Cor. 6:2). We are in the “**last days**” (Heb. 1:2) (i.e., the Christian dispensation), meaning that God's work in offering salvation to mankind through His Son is complete. Christ could return at any moment. We must prioritize obeying God in such a way that leaves no room for procrastinating submission to Him.

Everyone who is reading this still has the opportunity to come to God and receive salvation on the terms He offers. We still have the chance to escape the punishment faced by the rich man in **Luke 16:19-31**.

We don't know how long this opportunity will last, though. Life has much uncertainty (**James 4:13-15**), and none of us can predict the specific time that the Lord will return.

May we thus choose to be ready at *all* times, starting *now*. “**Behold, now is the acceptable time**” to obey God.

Area Gospel Meetings

Mattoon Southside Church of Christ:
March 7 – 13 (with Rob Dispennett)
Mon-Sat: 7:00 PM; Sun: 9:30, 10:30, 6:00

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:
March 20 – 25 (with Jim Stauffer)
Sun: 9:00, 10:00, 6:00; Mon-Fri: 7:00 PM

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:
March 27 – April 1 (with Chuck Bartlett)
Sun: 9:30, 6:00; Mon-Fri: 7:00 PM

*Our Gospel Meeting will be
April 17-22 with J.R. Bronger*
Sun: 9:30, 10:20, 2:00; Mon-Fri: 7:00

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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

Prayer List

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

Daily Bible Reading

March 6 – Numbers 35-36; Mark 10:1-31
March 7 – Deut. 1-3; Mark 10:32-52
March 8 – Deut. 4-6; Mark 11:1-18
March 9 – Deut. 7-9; Mark 11:19-33
March 10 – Deut. 10-12; Mark 12:1-27
March 11 – Deut. 13-15; Mark 12:28-44
March 12 – Deut. 16-18; Mark 13:1-20

"...receive with meekness the implanted Word..." – James 1:21

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Bible Study: Larry

Worship: Dan D

Evening: John

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Darrell

Assignments

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Roger

Table: Jeff

Serve: Dan D

Jim

Mike

Travis

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Invitation: Larry

Clean Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Julzy

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (9th) adult class:

Ephesians 1:7ff

Next Sunday (13th) adult class:

Overcoming Discouragement

Anniversaries

March 28 – John & Cynde

Birthdays

March 15 – Anna

March 23 – Patty