

March 13, 2022

The Anchor of the Faithful Christian's Soul

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.

Hebrews 6:19: *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil;*

In the midst of trying times, people often look for **hope** of something better in the future. For faithful Christians, hope is a central part of life at *all* times, serving as the anchor of the soul.

When hope for the faithful Christian is spoken about in Scripture, its object is *heaven* (cf. **1 Pet. 1:3-4**).

Hope involves fervently *desiring* heaven. We should *look forward to the Day of Judgment*, when the righteous of all ages will be gathered together in heaven.

After assuring that the Day of Judgment *will* come (**2 Pet. 3:10**), the Holy Spirit through Peter goes on to exhort the Christians He is addressing to be prepared for that Day (**verse 11**), and then speaks about how we ought to be "**looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God**" (**verse 12**).

The only reason to tremble at the thought of judgment is if one is not prepared. Faithful Christians ought to *look forward* to it. The opportunity to be in God's direct presence for eternity in a place free from sin far outweighs anything the world can offer. Looking forward to the Day of Judgment, on which day the righteous' hope will become reality, is a key element of hope.

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(Continued)

The hymn *On Jordan's Stormy Banks* expresses this sentiment well. Just as the physical nation of Israel looked with eager expectation toward their promised land, those who are part of "***the Israel of God***" (**Gal. 6:16**) (all faithful Christians) should look forward to *our* promised land.

The biblical concept of hope goes further than an eager desire, though. It also includes a *confident expectation* that such hope will be *realized*. This is seen in part of the definition of faith given in **Heb. 11:1: *Now faith is assurance of things hoped for...***

When there is a 50% chance of rain and a person says "I hope it doesn't rain today," he or she has a desire, but cannot have a confident expectation. On the other hand, there is a 100% guarantee that the righteous will spend eternity with God. One who is a faithful part of Christ's body can have a confident expectation that *if* he or she *remains* that way, heaven will one day be a *reality*.

The assurance one has of things hoped for is a part of *faith*. Faith is built by receiving the Word of God with "***an honest and good heart***" (**Luke 8:15**; cf. **Rom. 10:17**). The truth God gives us thus forms the basis for our hope. We know the righteous *really* will spend eternity in heaven because of God's Word, which persuades us of His faithfulness and the resurrection of His Son.

Jesus' resurrection is connected to the hope of *our* resurrection (**1 Pet. 1:3**). Notice **1 Corinthians 15:20: *But now hath Christ***

been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of them that are asleep.

Jesus was not the first to be raised from the dead (**Matt. 9:18-25**; **John 11:43-44**; etc), but He was the first to be raised from the dead *never to die again*. The crux of **1 Corinthians 15** is that Christ's resurrection guarantees a "general resurrection." This truth should make the *unrighteous tremble* (and come to God on *His* terms), but this truth provides *comfort* to the *righteous* (cf. **John 5:28-29**).

The assurance of the resurrection provides a sure and steadfast anchor for the faithful (**1 Cor. 15:58**). Life on earth will never be a "utopia," but life on earth can be lived with hope of eternal comfort in God's direct presence.

Such hope is *not* for those who are not God's faithful servants though. Any "hope" of heaven for the unrighteous is a *false* hope. The eternal abode of the *unrighteous* is a place of *never-ending* torment (**Mark 9:48**).

This doesn't have to be the destination of anyone reading this though. May those who've not "***put on Christ***" (**Gal. 3:27**) in the way the New Testament instructs do so, and may we each abide in His teaching every day, being anchored by the hope of eternal life offered us by Jesus' death and resurrection.

-Michael Hickox

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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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)

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

Daily Bible Reading

March 13 – Deut. 19-21; Mark 13:21-37
March 14 – Deut. 22-24; Mark 14:1-26
March 15 – Deut. 25-27; Mark 14:27-53
March 16 – Deut. 28-29; Mark 14:54-72
March 17 – Deut. 30-31; Mark 15:1-25
March 18 – Deut. 32-34; Mark 15:26-47
March 19 – Joshua 1-3; Mark 16

“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”
– Romans 10:17

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Bible Study: Michael

Worship: Dan H

Evening: Steve

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Roger

Assignments

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Travis

Table: Mike

Serve: Mark

Jeff

Steve

John

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Invitation: Dave

Clean Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Julzy

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (16th) adult class:

Ephesians 1:11ff

Next Sunday (20th) adult class:

Overcoming Discouragement

Anniversaries

March 28 – John & Cynde

Birthdays

March 15 – Anna

March 23 – Patty