

May 22, 2022

## Helping the Poor

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.

In **Galatians 2:9**, Paul recounted how Peter, James, and John gave to he and Barnabas the “***the right hand of fellowship***.” The three primarily taught Jews, while Paul and Barnabas primarily preached to Gentiles. Paul went on to mention one thing Peter, James, and John exhorted him and Barnabas to do. **Galatians 2:10: *They only asked us to remember the poor – which very thing I was also zealous to do.***

New Testament examples of early Christians show God’s desire for *all* of His children to be zealous for helping the poor (**Acts 2:45; 4:34-35; 11:29-30**).

Fulfilling this responsibility can seem challenging when we consider the qualifier given in **2 Thessalonians 3:10: *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*** Those who are poor because of an unwillingness to work should be encouraged to *repent*.

While laziness should not be “enabled,” Scripture shows that laziness is far from the *only* cause of poverty.

**Amos 4:1** speaks against those who “***oppress the poor***” and “***crush the needy***,” inferring that poverty can be caused (or worsened) by oppression. People can be poor because they’ve had things stolen (**Heb. 10:34**). Some

# Helping the Poor

(Continued)

have been made poor because of famine (**Acts 11:28**), or other natural disasters. In other words, the poor includes much more than just those who are unwilling to work.

The poor and needy should receive our compassion. Notice **1 John 3:17**: ***But whoever has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, then closes his heart of compassion against him, how does God's love abide in him? Those who are "rich in this present world" (1 Tim. 6:17) are exhorted to be rich in good works and to be "ready to distribute, willing to share" (verse 18).***

As zealous as we should be to help the poor, we should be careful to do so in accordance with God's pattern.

God established a weekly "**collection for the saints**" (**1 Cor. 16:1**). He commanded, ***"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" (verse 2).***

This is God's pattern for raising funds for *all* authorized works of the church.

In the immediate context, though, the apostle Paul indicated that this collection would be used to carry aid to needy saints in Jerusalem (**verse 3**). This passage shows that local churches have biblical authority to provide for needy saints (not only those of their own number, but of other local churches as well).

Benevolence as a collective work of the church is specifically for *saints* though. Church benevolence in the New Testament was not an "evangelism tool" to attract the lost, but rather a work intended to help needy Christians. Moreover, church benevolence does not supersede family's obligation to provide for its own (cf. **1 Tim. 5:4, 8, 16**).

While benevolence as a collective work of the church is for needy saints, *individual* Christians have responsibility to help *both* brethren *and* non-Christians as we have the ability and opportunity.

**Galatians 6:10** says, ***"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."***

This passage teaches about responsibilities of *individual* Christians, rather than the collective work of the church (cf. **verses 1-9**).

Notice, though, how this verse stresses our need to do the best we can to help others. While we must cautiously avoid unscriptural work in the area of benevolence, we must be zealous to pursue that which *is* scriptural. The effort we put forth to help the poor is of eternal significance (cf. **Matt. 25:31-46**).

Like the apostle Paul, may each of us be zealous to "***remember the poor.***"

## 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

***“We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.’ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”***

**– Romans 15:1-4 (NKJV)**

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Jerry & Sandy S  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond B  
Robert C  
Sharon G (Cancer)  
Doans' Grandson, Wilson  
Devin D (Cancer)  
Vicki S (Cancer)  
Susan F (Cancer)  
Christie's Brother, Jerry (Lung Cancer)  
Travis' Co-worker's Daughter, Kacie  
Marci B & Family

## Daily Bible Reading

May 22 – 1 Chronicles 16-18; John 7:28-53  
May 23 – 1 Chronicles 19-21; John 8:1-27  
May 24 – 1 Chronicles 22-24; John 8:28-59  
May 25 – 1 Chronicles 25-27; John 9:1-23  
May 26 – 1 Chronicles 28-29; John 9:24-41  
May 27 – 2 Chronicles 1-3; John 10:1-23  
May 28 – 2 Chronicles 4-6; John 10:24-42

***“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”***

**– 2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)**

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Bible Study: Travis

Worship: Dan D

Evening: Jim

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Douglas

### **Clean Building**

Janice

### **Prepare Communion**

Janice

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Wednesday (25<sup>th</sup>) adult class:**

*Ephesians 4:25ff*

**Next Sunday (29<sup>th</sup>) adult class:**

*Biblical Figures of Speech /*

*Attitudes Toward Those in Sin*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Steve

Table: Roger

Serve: Dan D

Travis

Jim

Darrell

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Invitation:

### **Anniversaries**

May 30 – Larry & Patsy

June 7 – Michael & Julzy

June 10 – Jeff & Patty

June 13 – Douglas & Madison

### **Birthdays**

May 23 – Jeanette

June 16 – Jenna