

July 17, 2022

“It Is Well With My Soul”

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
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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.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18: *Therefore we don't faint, but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; while we don't look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

These three verses show Paul's mindset toward the sufferings he endured as a Christian. No matter how difficult his life on earth was, the glory he brought to God and the eternal reward God promised made everything worth it.

Paul's attitude sets a good example for us to follow when facing *any* hardships. God desires His children to be so focused on Him that when things are tough, we will faithfully obey Him with patience and joy.

This type of attitude brings to remembrance the hymn *It Is Well With My Soul*. The words to the hymn were written by Horatio Spafford shortly after the death of his four daughters. The message of the song is that no matter how hard our temporal circumstances are, everything is OK as long as we are

“It Is Well With My Soul”

(Continued)

right with God. Notice the second verse of the song: *Tho’ Satan should buffet, tho’ trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

Consider both a good and bad example of this attitude from the book of **Job**. In **Job 1**, Satan killed Job’s children, servants, and animals (**verses 12-19**). Job said “***blessed be the name of the Lord***” after this (**verse 21**), and he “***did not sin, nor charge God with wrongdoing***” (**verse 22**).

In the second chapter, Satan “***struck Job with painful sores from the sole of his foot to his head***” (**verse 7**). Job’s wife responded to this, “***Do you still maintain your integrity? Renounce God, and die***” (**verse 9**). Job answered, “***You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?***” (**verse 10**).

Job, unlike his wife, demonstrated the proper reaction to hardships.

Consider also the “exodus” generation of Israelites. God fulfilled His promise to lead them out of Egyptian bondage (**Exod. 12:41; Gen. 15:13-14**). Though they saw the “***great work***” God did in defeating the Egyptians (**Exod. 14:31**), the Israelites lacked gratitude toward, and faith in, God.

They murmured against Him constantly, suggesting it would have been better for them to stay in Egypt (**Exod. 16:2-3; 17:2-3; Num. 14:1-3**). On one occasion, they even murmured because the food God provided was not as tasty as they preferred (**Num. 11:4-6**).

The difference between the Israelites and people like the apostle Paul is not circumstances, but faith. Joy, hope, and peace in the midst of trials are by-products of focusing one’s life on serving God instead of serving self.

This attitude enabled Paul to write (while in prison), “***Not that I speak in respect to lack, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content in it***” (**Phil. 4:11**). As far as Paul knew, the next day could bring sorer trials than he had ever faced. Yet, Paul was content knowing that He had been redeemed from sin through Christ (**Eph. 1:7**). Paul’s life on earth was filled with trials, but he rejoiced, knowing that heaven will be a place of eternal comfort.

If we are right with God, we can be at peace. Whatever earthly “***state***” we are in, we can say, “*It is well with my soul,*” and proclaim, “*My sin, O the bliss of this glorious tho’! My sin not in part but the whole, Is nailed to His cross and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*”

Area Gospel Meetings

Bellair Church of Christ:
July 18 – 22 (with Chuck Bartlett)
Mon-Fri: 7:00 PM

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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

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Words to Consider

“But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”
– Hebrews 11:16 (ESV)

Prayer List

Holly G
Jerry & Sandy S
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond B
Robert C
Doans’ Grandson, Wilson
Devin D (Cancer)
Vicki S (Cancer)
Susan F (Cancer)
Christie’s Brother, Jerry (Lung Cancer)
Berlyn Y
Leah C

Daily Bible Reading

July 17 – Psalm 18-19; Acts 20:17-38
July 18 – Psalm 20-22; Acts 21:1-17
July 19 – Psalm 23-25; Acts 21:18-40
July 20 – Psalm 26-28; Acts 22
July 21 – Psalm 29-30; Acts 23:1-15
July 22 – Psalm 31-32; Acts 23:16-35
July 23 – Psalm 33-34; Acts 24

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

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, July 17, 2022

Bible Study: Mike

Worship: Jeff

Evening: Mark

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Roger

Assignments

Sunday, July 24, 2022

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Travis

Table: Mark

Serve: Dave

Dan D

Dan H

Roger

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Invitation: Travis

Clean Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Misty

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (20th) adult class:

1 Corinthians 13

Next Sunday (24th) adult class:

Speaking as the Oracles of God

Anniversaries

August 15 – Roger & Debbie

Birthdays

August 4 – Steve

August 5 – Julzy

August 10 – Cheryl

August 11 – Jim