

July 24, 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.

“Am I Therefore Become Your Enemy, Because I Tell You the Truth?”

The question above was asked in Paul's letter to the Galatians (**Gal. 4:16**). In this letter, the Holy Spirit through Paul addressed Judaizers who “added” their *false* doctrine to Christ's truthful doctrine.

Paul rebuked the Galatians who heeded the Judaizers' false message (**Gal. 1:6-9**).

Because of Paul's *genuine* love for others (cf. **Rom. 12:9**), he often opposed error like that in Galatia. He did not pretend to love by encouraging sin, but zealously cried “danger” when he saw others on a dangerous path.

In asking the question, “***Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?***” Paul confronted a common reaction to warnings of danger. Instead of hearing constructive criticism as guidance that may help one improve, such guidance is often viewed as an “attack.”

If we are unknowingly driving down a dead-end road and someone lets us know, we might thank them and turn around.

Yet, when many individuals are taking the broad path that leads to destruction, any who point such out are seen as enemies.

This typical reaction makes it even more difficult for someone who genuinely cares to point out error, which should make us even more *appreciative* when one does so.

Those who love us enough to warn against sin should not become enemies, but friends.

May we heed the message of what God requires of us to be saved, instead of becoming angry at His messengers.

-Michael Hickox

Enduring Persecution

By Michael Hickox

2 Timothy 3:10-12: *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

Persecution is unpleasant but inevitable for Christians. Jesus told His disciples in **John 15:20**, “*if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;*”

Physical persecution was common for early Christians. After Paul’s conversion, he was “*in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft*” (**2 Cor. 11:23**). He said, “*Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;*” (verses 24-25).

We should remember, though, that persecution is not always physical. When Jesus said, “*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake*” (**Matt. 5:11**), He referenced *mental* persecution.

Christians are often ridiculed. The

tenderheartedness of the meek and lowly can lead to oppression from the proud and greedy. Standing for the truth often angers those whose choices defy it (**Gal. 4:16**). Persecution can include being “made fun of,” falsely accused, or “un-befriended.”

Jesus summarized the cause of His disciples’ persecution in **John 15:19**: ***If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.***

In the parable of the sower, Jesus said that the person who receives seed in “*stony places*”...that is, the one who has a shallow faith...will fall away when persecuted (**Matt. 13:20-21**). We must have a faith that *endures* persecution.

Enduring persecution is made easier when we remember God’s promises.

While it is hard to consider oneself blessed when persecuted for faithfulness to Christ (**Matt. 5:11**), those who face this please God (**1 Pet. 4:14**), and those who endure will receive an eternal home in heaven (**Rev. 2:10**). The temporary suffering Christians face is “*not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*” (**Rom. 8:18**).

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

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

– Psalm 19:7-10 (KJV)

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 24 – Psalm 35-36; Acts 25
July 25 – Psalm 37-39; Acts 26
July 26 – Psalm 40-42; Acts 27:1-26
July 27 – Psalm 43-45; Acts 27:27-44
July 29 – Psalm 46-48; Acts 28
July 29 – Psalm 49-50; Romans 1
July 30 – Psalm 51-53; Romans 2

“I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.”

– Jeremiah 10:23 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, July 24, 2022

Bible Study: Jim
Worship: John
Evening: Travis

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Dan D

Clean Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Misty

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (27th) adult class:

1 Corinthians 13

Next Sunday (31st) adult class:

Speaking as the Oracles of God

Assignments

Sunday, July 31, 2022

Reading: Dan D
Announcements: Steve
Table: Roger
Serve: John
Jim
Jeff
Darrell

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

Invitation:

Anniversaries

August 15 – Roger & Debbie

Birthdays

August 4 – Steve
August 5 – Julzy
August 10 – Cheryl
August 11 – Jim