

August 14, 2022

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
P.O. Box 683  
Olney, IL 62450  
618-843-4684  
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.

## Elijah, or not?

**Read:** Matthew 11:14 & John 1:21

**Question:** Was John the Elijah of prophecy? Why then do the answers Jesus and John give differ?

**Answer:** These questions stem from the remarks of the prophet Malachi. As he pens the final words of his prophecy he writes. *"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Lest I come and smite the land with a curse."* Malachi 4:5-6.

When certain priests and Levites asked John if he was in fact Elijah, he responded, *"I am not."* However, when Jesus spoke to the multitude, who had gone out to hear John preach, He told them John *"is Elijah, who was to come"*. Are these two contradicting one another? Did Jesus know John's true identity and history while John himself was yet ignorant? No! Both Jesus and John knew and spoke the truth. The answers to these questions reside in who was being spoken to. Jesus spoke to a crowd of people who went to learn and obey John's teaching. John spoke to a delegation sent by the rulers to question his teaching. These rulers misunderstood the message of Malachi. They were expecting Elijah to be physically reincarnated, and John certainly was not that. John on the other hand, had prepared the hearts of the people, in the character of Elijah, before the Lord came on the scene. This is what Jesus testifies to the crowd; John was the messenger Elijah of Malachi's prophecy.

# What About The Thief?

The thief on the cross is sometimes held up as a model of salvation by those who teach that faith alone is enough to save. It is strange that we would advocate a thief as the example to follow, but it is true that He was saved (Lk. 23:43). Whether he was baptized we cannot know for certain because the Bible does not say. We do know; however, that he was not baptized into Christ as those on the day of Pentecost and thereafter were. Does this mean that we can be saved today without being baptized? **Not at all!** Here is why the thief on the cross is not an example of salvation for us to model.

## **Christ was still alive.**

This condemned thief was living under a different law than you and I do. He was still living under the Law of Moses, but now we live under the law of Christ (1 Cor. 9:20-21). The law of Christ states that we must: believe (Ac. 16:30-31), repent (Ac. 2:38), confess Jesus as Christ (Rom 10:9-11), and be baptized (Ac. 22:16 *Saul still had sins that needed to be washed away.*) His law or will, like any man's last will and testament, did not go into force until he died (Heb. 9:16-17). Jesus still had the right to give what he had to anyone He chose. This is the same as men today

who give away what they have to their family and friends. Christ had the power to forgive sins with a word while He walked this earth, and He did so to more than just the thief (Matt. 9:2. Now, however, His will is in effect and His will states that for men to be saved they must be baptized.

Peter made the relationship that baptism has with salvation very plain when he wrote, *“And corresponding to that, **baptism now saves you**—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”* 1 Pet. 3:21. Baptism saves, that's that the Bible says.

*Ray Warfel, Jr (2001)*

***For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.***

**2 Corinthians 6:2**

## 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  
 Jerry & Sandy Family  
 Cheryl  
 Norma  
 Raymond  
 Robert  
 Wilson  
 Devin (Cancer)  
 Jerry (Lung Cancer)  
 Berlyn  
 Leah  
 Roger (Covid Recovery)  
 Misty's Step-Dad, Ed (Cancer)

## Daily Bible Reading

Aug 14: Ps 89-90; Rom 14  
 Aug 15: Ps 91-93; Rom 15:1-13  
 Aug 16: Ps 94-96; Rom 15:14-33  
 Aug 17: Ps 97-99; Rom 16  
 Aug 18: Ps 100-102; 1Cor 1  
 Aug 19: Ps 103-104; 1Cor 2  
 Aug 20: Ps 105-106; 1Cor 3

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Bible Study: Darrell

Worship: Jim

Evening: Dan H

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Mark

### **Assignments**

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Steve

Serve: Travis

Jim

John

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

Invitation: Dan D

### **Clean Building**

Cynde

### **Prepare Communion**

Linda

### **Gospel Meeting Sermons – Gale Towles**

**Sunday AM** – Powerful Things

**Sun PM** – Marriage Partner Everyone Wants

**Monday** – Challenges to Being a Parent

**Tuesday** – Skills to Help in Parenting

**Wednesday** – The Spirit of Christ

**Thursday** – Serving God Where I Am

**Friday** – The Gospel of Christ

### **Anniversaries**

August 15 – Roger & Debbie

### **Birthdays**

August 19 – Paula

August 24 – Debbie

August 25 – Olivia

August 31 - Stephanie