

February 19, 2023

Olney Church of Christ

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

Services

Sunday

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| Bible Study | 9:30 am |
| A.M. Worship | 10:20 am |
| P.M. Worship | 2:00 pm |

Wednesday

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| 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.

Sincerely Yours

Our word “sincere” has an interesting history. Etymologists tell us that in Ancient Rome, men who made statues, sculptors, and other artistic endeavors used wax to cover up their mistakes. They became so proficient about it that only the most trained eye could spot the charade. The pretense looked good until the sun came out on a hot summer day or the wear and tear of weather came to bear. Then the wax melted, and the pretender was unveiled.

The professional people, who would not stoop to such pretensions, came up with a warranty word of sorts to protect their art or product. They would say it is sine cera, without wax. This was later adopted into English and became our word “sincere”.

Sincerity is a great need today. Pretensions are everywhere. Never are they more abundant than in our advertising. Promises are made and guarantees are given that are absolutely worthless. And yet, when they are done with some dulcet-toned announcer or some beautiful young starlet, all doubt is removed. The wax is applied. And what about politics? Charades are everywhere in political circles. Some well-known individual runs for office with promises abundant. The wax is applied.

Cont'd inside

Sincerely Yours (cont'd)

By the time he gets elected, the promises have been forgotten – covered up with some hastily applied excuse.

The Scriptures are filled with admonitions about integrity, honesty, reliability, “Lord, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in the holy hill,” asks David (Psalm 15). “he that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness and speaketh truth is his heart.” The secret to true sincerity is personal integrity, speaking the truth in his heart. All sincerity begins there. There is no external wax on the character that speaks truth in his heart.

Philippians 1:9-10 – “And this I pray, that our love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.” Here, Paul prays for a sincerity as people approve the more excellent life. Approval of that life is seen in a sincere and dedicated effort to follow Christ. Sincerity breeds a good life.

Peter, in his first epistle, chapter 2, verse 2, enjoins that we “desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” The “sincere” milk of the word is the word without any admixture, the word in all its purity. The New International Version renders this “crave pure spiritual milk.” The religious world is filled today with a compound gospel, one appended with men’s ideas and decisions.

In many religious circles today, the gospel used is one filled with the wax of human opinion.

Paul closes his letter to the Ephesians saying, “Grace be with them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.” There must not be any duplicity in our love for Christ. It has to be a sincere love, one with true dedication, evidenced by our total dedication to His work, His gospel, His assurances. Sincere love is devoid of any false mixture; it is pure devotion to Him.

Hypocrisy is the opposite of sincerity. Jesus saved his most harsh rebukes for those who practiced religion with a mask on their faces. Matthew 23 tells of their masking their true hearts with a kind of external cloak. They covered up the real person with external rituals, facades of various sorts.

It’s interesting to me that etymologists have a simple way to measure whether or not an affirmation about a word is true. Michael Quinion, the English word expert, says. “The better they sound, the more circumstantial and detailed the background the neater the conclusion, the less likely there are to be true. Conversely, if a story (about a word, db) is mundane and boring, it is likely to be

God's Plan for Saving Man

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 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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Prayer List

Holly
Cheryl
Raymond
Robert
Doans' Grandson, Wilson
Devin (Cancer)
Jerry (Lung Cancer)
Misty's Step-Dad, Ed (Cancer)
Ken & Chris
Randall (Cancer Treatment)

Daily Bible Reading

Feb 19: Lev 25; Mark 1:23-45

Feb 20: Lev 26-27; Mark 2

Feb 21: Num 1-2; Mark 3:1-19

Feb 22: Num 3-4; Mark 3:20-35

Feb 23: Num 5-6; Mark 4:1-20

Feb 24: Num 7-8; Mark 4:21-41

Feb 25: Num 9-11; Mark 5:1-20

Feb 26: Num 12-14; Mark 5:21-43

correct." That's true about most truth. It is seldom complex and difficult to understand, but simple and direct – even sometimes boring to some of the religious "experts."

~Dee Bowman via Gospel Power, 2007

But they that wait upon the Lord
shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Bible Study: Jeff
Worship: Mark
Afternoon: Roger

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Douglas

Assignments

Sunday February 26, 2023

Reading: Dan D
Announcements: Darrell
Table: Dave
Serve: Mark
Jeff
John
Dan H

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Invitation: Larry

Prepare Communion

Misty

Clean Building

Misty

Preaching Feb 26, 2023

AM – Travis

PM – Travis

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February:

23 – Larry

28 – Donna G