

August 20, 2023

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
-------------	---------

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.

The Joy of Following Christ

With all that the world has to offer, a question one might ask is, “Why would I want to be a Christian?”

This question may be even more challenging for some when considering the depth of true commitment to Christ.

In **Matthew 16:24**, Jesus said, “***If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.***” Being an obedient Christian involves a lifestyle of submitting to God’s will, even when His will is different from what is pleasant and comfortable. It may involve angering family members (**Matt 10:34-37**), being spoken evil of (**1 Pet 4:4**), and doing many things that push us out of our “comfort zone”.

While these truths make some turn away from obeying the Lord, the one who understands and appreciates God’s plan of salvation responds far differently.

As our Creator, God is the original source of all authority (**John 19:11**). He has the authority to instruct us concerning how we must live.

Though mankind has no right to disobey God, the Holy Spirit teaches that “***all have sinned, and fall short***

The Joy of Following Christ cont'd.

of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). This disobedience separates us from God, leaving us faced with the prospect of eternal death I hell (Rom 6:23a). Sin brings us under bondage, and leave us owing a debt we cannot pay. Sin leaves us facing the wrath of God.

“But God commends His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). Through Jesus we can be saved from sin (Matt 1:21) and its consequences (Rom 5:9). Through Jesus, the debt has been paid to allow us release from enslavement to sin (Eph 1:7). Through Jesus, we can return to fellowship with God (Rom 5:10), and have the hope of spending eternity in His presence, instead of facing eternity in hell, ***“where their worm doesn’t die, and the fire is not quenched”*** (Mark 9:44).

Through Jesus, we can turn from sin and be received as God’s people, bringing honor to our Creator by living a life that pleases Him. We can fulfill our purpose in life of glorifying God, and fill the “void” that ever exists until one submits to the Lord (cf. Eccl 1:13).

The apostle Paul was full of joy and peace at a time he was imprisoned for the faith (Phil 1:13). He

knew that he could glorify God and receive salvation, while helping others do the same (cf. Phil 2:17-18; 4:11-13). This meant far more to Paul than the sufferings he faced.

The opportunity to be a faithful Christian is available to each one of us (1 John 2:2), just as it was to Paul. The chance to glorify God, receive salvation, and help others do the same is available to all. None of us deserve this gift, but God offers it to us through His love and the sacrifice of His Son.

What God offers is far superior to what the world offers. The blessings associated with obedience to God far outweigh great earthly possessions, power, popularity, or prestige.

Christ’s followers live on earth with deep joy, hope, and a peace that surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:7).

May all who desire the blessings Christ offers realize we can receive them. May we submit to His will and appreciate what a blessed life it is that He calls us to.

~Michael Hickox. 2019

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

+++++

*"Be strong and
Courageous.*

do not be discouraged.

*For the Lord your
God will be with you
Wherever you go."*

-Joshua 1:9

Prayer List

Holly Gerber
Cheryl Smith (Surgery Recovery)
Robert Cantonwine
Doans' Grandson, Wilson
Chris Fisher & Family
Nora & Her Family & Family
Those Battling Cancer

Chris Fisher
2911 Kaskaskia Way
Indianapolis, IN 46217

Daily Bible Reading

Aug 20: Ps 105-106; 1Cor 3

Aug 21: Ps 107-109; 1Cor 4

Aug 22: Ps 110-112; 1Cor 5

Aug 23: Ps 113-115; 1Cor 6

Aug 24: Ps 116-118; 1Cor 7:1-19

Aug 25: Ps 119:1-88; 1Cor 7:20-40

Aug 26: Ps 119:89-176; 1Cor 8

Aug 27: Ps 120-122; 1Cor 9

Prayer Leaders

Sunday August 20, 2023

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: Mike

Afternoon: Travis

Wednesday, July 23, 2023

Larry

Prepare Communion

Donna G

Clean Building

Donna G

Preaching Aug. 27, 2023

AM –

PM –

Celebration of Life

Ken Fisher

Saturday, Aug 26th @ 1:00

Assignments

Sunday August 27, 2023

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Mark

Table: John

Serve: Steve

Roger

Jim

Mark

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

Invitation: Dan D

Anniversaries

Birthdays

August:

24 – Debbie

25 – Olivia

31 – Stephanie