



tion 2:5). My ardent prayer is that they hear these words and are cut to the heart to the point of repentance. But, another prayer that I have is that we all encourage each other to stop and take an inventory of where we are in relationship to where we have been in our ser-

vice to the Lord. If we are growing in our service to the Lord, let us continue to grow more and more every day! If we're not growing, but are stagnant, hear and obey the words of the Lord Jesus when He pleads that we **“be zealous and repent”** (Revelation 3:19). If we find that we are not even stagnant, but drifting away, we must not only recognize where we have drifted from, but to **“strengthen the things which remain”** and **“remember how we heard and received”** His Gospel of salvation and let us **“hold fast”** to those things and **“repent”** back to the honorable service which we once faithfully offered up to Him (Revelation 3:2-3). May the Lord God Almighty continue to bless us and be just a little more long-suffering with us all.



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## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

11.46

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

November 15  
2009



## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Curtis Carwile

## “Used to Be”

by Curtis Carwile

I used to be a huge Chicago Cubs fan. While growing up, I remember watching them on TV every chance I got. I loved the Cubs and all the players. I used to be able to tell you who was on the roster of almost any given year. I used to be able to tell you how many homeruns Ryne Sandberg hit in 1990 (40 homeruns). I used to be able to tell you what Ernie Banks life time batting average was (BA .274). I used to be able to tell you how many Cy Young Awards Greg Maddux received during his career with the Cubs and Braves (4). I used to be able to tell you so much about the Chicago Cubs off the top of my head that you would have to wonder about just how socially awkward I really was (the answer is “very”). I used to be able to tell

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you all of that stuff because I spent hours reading books and newspaper articles on the Cubs and watching their games. I devoted a considerable portion of my life to knowing and remembering those things.

However, over time, other things became more important to me and I stopped



Olsen Park church of Christ

reading so much about them and I stopped watching every game that came on TV. Pretty soon, those stats which I held so close to me started slipping away and I couldn't recall them as quickly as I once could if I remembered them at all. By the time I got to college, I stopped caring about baseball almost altogether. Before this year's World Series, I don't think I've watched a game between anyone in almost ten years. I can no longer tell you hardly anything about the Cubs off the top of my head. I remember that 1908 was the last time they won a World Series and 1945 was the last year they won the National League Pennant, but that's about it. I had to look up those other stats that I mentioned earlier. The point is that, over time those things faded from me due to my lack of study and lack of interest. Now, all that remains is a vague feeling of "liking the Cubs."

I am afraid that too many Christians are like this today. At one time, they used to be huge fans of Jesus. While they were growing up, they would come to Church excited about Bible class and worship. They would have their lessons prepared for class. They would have their memory verses ready. As they grew older, they knew where things were in the Bible and they were excited about coming to

worship with other Christians who were excited for the same reason. They used to devote themselves to study and prayer so much that they could tell you anything off the tops of their heads. Yet, over time, the things of this world grabbed a foothold of their interests and slowly took over. They stopped reading their Bibles every day. They stopped caring about having the Bible written on their hearts. They didn't pray as much. They started coming in late to every worship assembly if they even came at all. Over time and with life's many distractions, they stopped being a "huge fan" of Jesus to the point that the only thing that remains is a vague feeling of "I like Jesus, but I can't remember why."

The writer of Hebrews tells us in Hebrews 2:1 "**Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.**" In this passage, drifting away from God and His words are equated with neglecting the great salvation He offers through Jesus (2:3-4). It is this drifting away that is "**transgression and disobedience**" and that which will bring a "**just retribu-**

**tion**" upon the drifter from the Lord (2:2). Drifting is so dangerous because it happens so slowly and almost unnoticeably until it is too late.

Friends, I know that it is a long shot that someone who has drifted "too far" (not that any are too far gone for the Lord to save while they still live) will read this and understand that I am speaking to them or understand that God is speaking to them through Hebrews 2:1-4. But, I write these words to encourage them to stop drifting and "**remember from where**" they "**have fallen**" and to "**repent and do the first works**" (Revela-