



crown of life to wear and a heavenly mansion in which to eternally live. All anyone has to do is obey the Gospel every day until He returns which, considering the great price Jesus paid on the cross for ungodly sinners like you and me, this is a very small price indeed.

ranged in the middle of the night, when nobody was looking. We need to do our best to fulfill the Great Commission by going into every nation and preaching the Gospel to every creature in order to assure them that they do have value and that the God who gave them value wants to give them more, a

You are valuable to God. Act like it. And, don't let anyone tell you otherwise. It is such an awesome and humbling thought that the God who spoke the Universe into existence made you more valuable than anything else in it and proved that point by sending His Son to die on the cross to atone for our sins. Praise God for His goodness! Praise God for His love! Praise God forevermore!

\*The source material and inspiration for this article was from Max Lucado's book *No Wonder They Call Him The Savior*.



Faithful Sayings Issue 12.5 January 31, 2010

## Welcome Visitors

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

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

12.5

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

January 31  
2010



### 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

## The Value of You

by Curtis Carwile

Once upon a time, two burglars broke into a department store one rather unremarkable night. They obviously knew what they were doing because they entered undetected, did what they came to do, and left just as unnoticed as they came. In fact, these prowlers were so good that it was four whole hours into the next business day until someone realized that something was even wrong. Truly, these were bold criminals. I say that, not because of what they stole or how much they stole, but because they didn't steal a thing. That's right, they didn't take a single thing. If that sounds ridiculous to you (it should), what they *did* actually do is even more ridiculous. The authorities concluded that the reason these two hooligans broke in was to change the price tags on every single item in the store. (I told you it was ridiculous). They switched the price for a \$5.00 thing of stationary with one from a \$395.00 camera. They switched the \$5.95 stick-

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er of a used paperback book with one from an outboard motor. They changed the prices of everything and left no other trace of their presence. And, I'll say this again: it took the store *four business hours* to realize that something was even wrong!

That's pretty crazy, isn't it? Did you find this story hard to believe? I did when I first



Olsen Park church of Christ

heard it. However, it shouldn't be that hard for us to accept that this has happened because, in a very different but very real way, this happens every day. The world seems like someone snuck in during the middle of the night and rearranged all the prices on everything. People exchange the most valuable things in life for pennies while the most worthless smut goes for millions. The silly vanities of life are going for top dollar while the value of human life is at an all-time low. It doesn't really matter how it all started or how it got to this point, but it does matter that this is our sad reality. Because human life is regarded as worthless, people feel worthless. It is because people feel worthless that they create their own false value systems. Unfortunately, the two criteria that most of the world uses to determine value is appearance and performance. And, if you don't have either, then the world doesn't believe that you have very much value if any at all.

Thankfully, this is not how God determines the value of a person. I don't know if there is a better place in the Bible that shows how much value God has determined an individual has than in Luke 23:39-43 where Luke tells us about the thief on the cross. Time and time again, we've read the words of Paul in Romans 5:6-11 where he says that Christ died for "the ungodly," "the sinners," and those who are "enemies" of God and we think of ourselves (and we should). However, there is someone else He died for. It was for

a criminal, a thief, and possibly even a murderer. That's who Jesus died for; whether that man knew it or not, that's what was going on while He hung on the cross. You know, many of us can look at our lives and console ourselves by saying, "Yeah, I know I've done some pretty nasty things in my lifetime, but I'm still a pretty good guy." Then, when we look at this brigand, we focus on his sins and we can hear the tone in his voice when he mocks the Lord God Almighty of all Heaven and Earth, and we are tempted to think, "Why would God waste His time with *him*?!" I'll tell you why God "wasted" his time with someone like that: because, even with all those sins that man had racked up during his less than reputable life, he was still a person. Jesus "wasted" His precious few remaining moments on this earth caring about the eternal destination of one of the lost sheep He had come to save. Jesus wasn't wasting His time with that man who hung beside Him because he wasn't a thief. I'm sure he stole things and absolutely deserved the punishment he was receiving, but that's not what Jesus saw. When Jesus looked at that man, He didn't see a thief. Instead, He saw a man whose soul had been knitted by God Himself inside the womb. He saw someone who God sent Him to save. He saw someone who God loved. He saw someone who had value **because** God loved him.

The value of anything is set by whoever is in charge, whoever has the authority. God is the ultimate authority because He created everything. And, out of all the things that He created (and that's a lot!), the thing that He values the most is the beloved soul of His most favorite creation, man. THIS is how WE should think. THIS is how WE should view other people, no matter how despicable they might seem to us. We need to see our fellow man as someone with value whether they dress in Armani or not. And, not only that, but we need to do our best to go throughout the whole "store" and "re-price" everything that Satan and his tricksters have rear-