



my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I CAN-NOT" (Jer. 20:9 emphasis mine). Are you on fire for God? Can you say along with Jeremiah that you *cannot* keep yourself from sharing God's Word? Are you com-

pelled by the love of Christ to preach His message to the world? (cf. 2 Cor. 5:14-15) Consider one final passage regarding Paul's attitude about preaching the Gospel: "**Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel**" (1 Cor. 9:16). Paul says of himself that he would be miserable and wretched if did not share the news of Christ, what about you? Would your heart be pained if you neglected to teach others about the salvation found in Christ? Let us never shrink from declaring our love for Christ, and naming Him the Savior and King of our lives! (cf. Rom. 1:16).



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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

13.3

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

January 16
2011



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia

Rejoicing in Iniquity

By Jason Garcia

At times it seems that we are surrounded by people who love nothing more than to talk about all the sin they enjoy: drunkenness, lying, stealing, promiscuity, and all the other evils people love to brag about. How do we react in those circumstances? Avoiding worldly people is impossible if we are living as Christ did, for He freely intermingled with them, and even ate with them as He taught them (cf. Matt. 5:14-16; 1 Cor. 5:9-10). In our jobs and at school we encounter sinners all the time looking for someone to share the same delight they have in their sin. When they turn to us, how do we respond? Do we shut down as if we are afraid to say anything against their lifestyle? Do we smile and laugh and carry on with them, or do anything to give them the impression we approve of their sin? Paul taught the Corinthians that love, "**does not**

rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth” (1 Cor. 13:6).

It isn't hard to find worldly people who are excited about their sin and relish opportunities to share it with others, and also have no shame in speaking about it as their favorite pastime. Do we show them how excited and passionate we are about serving the



Olsen Park church of Christ

Lord? Do we delight in sharing what the Lord has done for us, or do we cower and act ashamed of our identity in Christ?

Why is it that we hesitate at times to be as open about our love for Christ as some people are about their love of sin? In the time of Christ there were men who believed He was the Son of God but, nevertheless, they would not openly *confess* Him to be so. The Scripture gives us insight as to the reason for this in John chapter 12: **“because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God”** (v.43). Why do men hesitate or outright refuse to confess Christ as the Messiah? Essentially, they love having a better relationship and reputation with other people than with God. If we ever find ourselves failing to stand up for Christ, we need to ask “why?” Remember the words of our Lord the next time a friend or family member mocks Him in your presence: **“So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven, but whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father in heaven”** (Matt. 10:32-33). We mustn't allow ourselves to think that denying the Lord is limited to our speech, for we may deny Him by our actions as well (cf. Titus 1:16).

As far as being open to people about our joy in Christ consider what Paul has to say in Philippians: **“REJOICE in the Lord ALWAYS, again I say REJOICE. Let your reasonableness be known to EVERY-ONE...”** (Phil. 4:4-5 emphasis mine). We, of all people, have more than enough reasons to be happy; why on earth would we hide that from anyone? Paul argues elsewhere that if the hope we have in Christ is false, then Christians should be the most pitied of all people (cf. 1 Cor. 15:16-19). People of the world look to the fleeting pleasures of sin to find happiness, but in the end they are left emotionally and spiritually destitute. The truth is that without Christ no one can be truly happy—even in this life (cf. John 13:17 KJV). Peter offers us the visceral truth of those who live in sin when he says **“The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire”** (2 Pet. 2:22). Still, if any doubt remains, consider the Psalmist's words: **“When I kept silent about my sin, MY BODY WASTED AWAY through my groaning all day long. †For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was**

drained away as with the fever heat of summer” (Psalm 32:3-4 emphasis mine). No sinner will escape the condemnation of God in eternity, and neither will he escape the damaging consequences of his sin in this life. Do we make efforts to teach this truth to the sinners we encounter? †

When it comes to sharing the Gospel with others, how eager are you to share the good news? Consider what Jeremiah had to say when it came to preaching the Word of God: **“If I say, ‘I will not mention Him, or speak any more in His Name,’ there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in**