

In every individual there may be an infinite number of reasons, or combination of reasons why people reject God. Yet, when all is said and done we must recognize that when those around us do

this a couple of things are going on: first, they are failing to truly look and listen (Matt. 13:10-17). The good and honest heart will not be blinded by its own preconceptions. Second, the one who rejects God does so by choice. Joshua taught the people that one must choose for his or her self whether to serve the Lord (Josh. 24:14, 15). The task of Christians is to do all that we can to help the souls around us come to obedience to the gospel. However, all we can do is lead them to the truth; they must listen and make the choice for themselves. Some will—some will not.



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Faithful Sayings Issue 13.14 April 3, 2011

## Welcome Visitors

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

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

13.14

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

April 3  
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

## Why Do People Reject God?

By Kyle Pope

In Acts 13:38-46 we read about Paul and Barnabas' work in Pisidian Antioch. After some of the Jews began to oppose them Paul describes the people as having judged **“themselves unworthy of eternal life”** (Acts 13:46). This doesn't mean that they didn't want eternal life. Everyone wants eternal life (if they recognize the need for it). But, they didn't recognize that Paul offered the only means to eternal life. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life (Acts 4:9-12). The Jews in Antioch didn't like the message he brought, and in so doing, they



made a choice for themselves that they were unworthy of eternal life. They probably didn't realize that this was their choice. They may have thought that they were holding on to the way of eternal life. Yet, by refusing to accept the only true way to life, they **“judged themselves unworthy of eternal life.”**



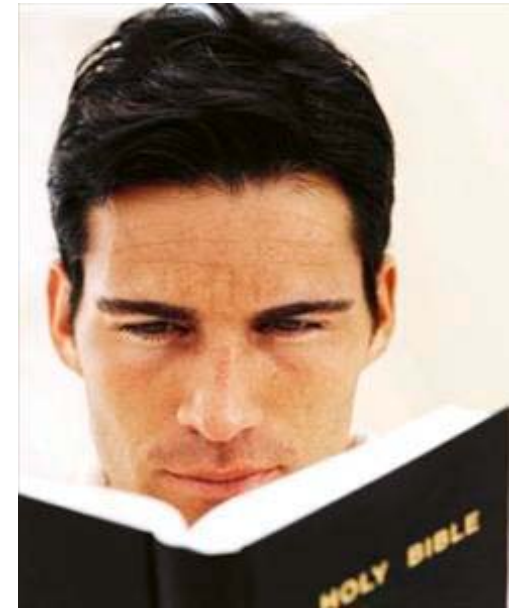
Olsen Park church of Christ

Today people do this same thing for a number of reasons. One reason is fear. It is a frightening thing to follow God. It calls on us to trust the unseen. It calls on us to fight powerful foes. It is easy to have misplaced fears. This was Israel's problem. God had delivered them from Pharaoh. He had conquered oceans and deserts and hunger, but when they were called on to be conquerors themselves, they didn't think they could do it (Num. 14:1-11). God describes their reaction as rejecting Him. Fear is rejection. Yet, sadly this kind of fear ignores what man should truly fear (Luke 12:4-5). We must hold an awe for the fact that God will judge us. This “fear of God” is a choice. Yet, men choose to hate knowledge and refuse to choose the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:20-29).

Why would anyone do this? Some do so because of ignorance. That is how Paul describes it to the Ephesians (Eph. 4:17-19). Such souls are the very souls we should seek the most, because they do not know the truth. Perhaps, if they could only learn the truth, their hard heart might melt. Others cling to tradition. Jesus condemns this and identifies it as a cause of some people's rejection of God (Mark 7:5-9). These kinds of traditions are reli-

gious; people simply do what they have always done. They do what their family has always done in religion. Our family may or may not be a good measure of truth.

Some traditions have nothing to do with religion. They are simply what the flesh chooses to do. Following Jesus may demand spending our time differently than we would choose. It may mean we must deny certain pleasures. These are traditions which concern what we do with our bodies or put into our bodies. This kind of tradition leads many to reject God because of the love of pleasure (2 Tim. 3:1-4). Paul teaches that this is love of self, focused on the love of pleasure. These people are not just the drug users, the fornicators, or the alcoholics. Sometimes lovers of pleasure are people that look very kind and self-controlled. However, they will not follow Christ because they choose to follow the dictates of their heart (Jer. 13:8-10a). The heart is fickle. The heart is selfish. The heart is only as sound as the content it



has received within it. The heart is not a reliable standard. Yet, many follow it. The heart can convince us to accept as true what is in fact a lie. It leads us to love the lie and to love being deceived (Jer. 9:5-6).