



him” even while he is still “a long way off.” The father brings the best robe and rings for his son, and a great feast is planned in celebration (cf. Luke 15). It is difficult for us to imagine having this reaction to a man like our nation’s greatest enemy, but if he had repented and turned to the Lord, we are called

to share the Father’s attitude in greeting him as a new son. Many of us might be tempted to protest the reception of a mass murderer and turn our backs on him. But we must ask ourselves is there any amount of sin that the blood of Christ cannot take away? Is there any sin too great that the Lord cannot forgive? John was inspired to say, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness”** (1 John 1:9 emphasis mine). The Lord can and will forgive all those who come to Him with a humble and contrite heart. We must never forget that it is only appointed once for a man to die, and then comes the judgment (cf. Heb. 9:27). We only have one life, one soul, and we cannot afford to waste it at any cost (Matt. 16:26).



Faithful Sayings Issue 13.21 May 22, 2011

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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
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ISSUE

13.21

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

May 22
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

Should Christians Rejoice Over Osama Bin Laden’s Death? By Jason Garcia

It’s been almost ten years since the attack on the World Trade Center—the deadliest assault ever conducted by an enemy on American soil. If you were to ask any American where they were on that day in 2001 he or she would vividly remember. The pain and suffering inflicted on all the people trapped in the burning towers, the ones who would give their lives to save them, the families that lost children, parents, husbands and wives—all these memories can instill great hatred. Hatred directed primarily toward one man—Osama Bin Laden. However, a few weeks ago the US Navy carried out an operation in which



the world's most wanted man was killed. How is a Christian to respond to all of this? Certainly this man was a threat not only to our country, but to our faith as well. The world will be rid of one less terrorist responsible for the deaths of thousands upon thousands. What, then, is the appropriate response to his death?



Olsen Park church of Christ

Scripture teaches us that, without exception, **“all who desire to lively godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”** (2 Tim. 3:12 ESV). There will always be evil people seeking to hurt those who serve the Lord. This is exactly what we see played out in the lives of the apostles and the earliest Christians who suffered in their day. James would become the first of the twelve to suffer death at the hands of evil men (cf. Acts 12:2). Saul of Tarsus made it his personal goal to imprison and murder men and women who followed the Lord, before turning to Christ Himself. According to tradition, all apostles, with the exception of John, suffered death for their faith in Christ. All this is to say that it should come as no surprise to us that in our time there are enemies of the cross just as there have been from the beginning. Still, this says nothing of what our attitude or our approach should be toward evil men. Do we in turn hate them as they hate us? The Lord said, **“Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you”** (Matt. 5:44). He perfectly embodied this teaching when, as He was being killed, said, **“Father forgive them for they know not what they do”** (Luke 23:34). Even suffering death at the hands of those who hated Him, the Lord expressed His desire to pour out His love. Stephen, the first man recorded to have been put to death for the faith, expressed the same sentiment with his dying breath (cf. Acts 7:60). As difficult as that is for us to imitate, it is nevertheless the standard

we are called to bear. The Lord never stopped desiring for all men to come to Him and to know the truth. The Spirit states this very directly through Paul saying, **“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”** (1 Tim. 2:4).

So then, in what way does this relate to our question? Some may object and declare that in these scriptures we do not have an exact parallel to the circumstances surrounding the death of Osama Bin Laden. Perhaps that's true. Even so that would be irrelevant. Because if we are to strive to be more like Christ, then we must share His attitude which desires all men to be saved, and if any person dies outside of Christ, it is a tragedy. Yes, as much good that might come to our country and to the world because of Osama Bin Laden's death, his death is still tragic in God's eyes and should be in ours as well. Consider the words of God through the prophet Ezekiel: **“Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?”** (Ez. 18:23). God's will for man has never changed, even under the Old Law His desire was for the salvation of His people, and despite what

His enemies say, He takes *no pleasure* in the death of the wicked; neither should we.

How can we learn to have this perspective when so many around us are celebrating this man's demise? Perhaps the answer lies in remembering the value of a soul. Jesus taught us when the Lord celebrates and, as we've seen, it's not when a man or woman dies without having a relationship with Him. Remember the story of the prodigal son? Do you remember the reaction of his father upon the son's change of heart? When the boy returned and was willing to humble himself to a position lower than a servant, it is then that the father runs to “embrace him and kiss