



sides, but he knows that his master is there, and that is all he needs to know and where he longs to be. We see in the Scriptures fleeting glances of the heavenly Paradise that awaits us, but we look forward with great anticipation to the day when it will be said that

**“the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God”** (Rev 21:3). Are you seeking *that* city? Have we, like Abraham, seen the promises of God from afar and embraced them? Have we confessed that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth? (cf. Heb. 11:13) Do you long for that day? The day when God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain? (cf. Rev 21:4) The joy will be inexpressible, the peace overwhelming, and the glory indescribable when we can finally say, “I am home with my Master.”



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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

13.39

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

September 25  
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

## Here We Are But Straying Pilgrims

By Jason Garcia

Some 4000 years ago God spoke to a man named Abram. The Lord told him to leave the place that he had always known and journey to a distant land—a land that his descendants would inherit. The Hebrew writer chose to use Abram or Abraham as an example for the Christian seeking a better home, a better land, a better existence dwelling with God. He challenges us in his words to think like Abraham, to see this life the way Abraham saw it. Let’s think about what he has to teach.

The writer begins by saying, “**By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went**” (Heb. 11:8 KJV). Abraham’s faith led him to act, and without

it he never would have embarked upon his pilgrimage. Although he had never seen the place that God told him to go, this did not deter him. We too have been called, brothers and sisters—called to embark on a journey with the Lord as our Guide. Perhaps we can sympathize with Thomas when,

seemingly distressed, he exclaimed, **“Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?”** (John 14:5). Though we may at times share Thomas’s uncertainty, we can take comfort in the Lord’s response: **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”** (John 14:6). Indeed, there is a sense in which we too have gone out not knowing whither we go. We know that we’re striving for heaven, a home with God, that the Lord is guiding us, and yet, we have never seen this place with our own eyes. Just as Abraham took his first steps toward the Promised Land with faith, pressing forward to an unknown destination, we also must walk by faith and not by sight, fixing our eyes on the One who is our Guide (cf. 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 12:2).

Scripture goes on to say, **“By faith [Abraham] sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise...”** (Heb. 11:9). While in this world we will feel out of place and foreign, always longing for something better. We sojourn here in this strange land all the while seeing and enduring the wickedness of man. Just as Lot, our souls are vexed with the filthy con-

versation of the wicked; in seeing and hearing, vexing our righteous souls from day to day with their unlawful deeds (cf. 2 Pet 2:7-8). Remember, brothers and sisters, their end will be according to their deeds (cf. 2 Cor. 11:15). If we are faithful, we have everything to look forward to, and a crown of life awaits us when our sojourn is done (cf. Jas. 1:12). Like Abraham, we must never stop seeking **“a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God”** (Heb. 11:10). Nothing here is permanent, and **“here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come”** (Heb. 13:14). All cities we know have been founded and operate on human wisdom and knowledge. What will it be like to belong to a city without sin and rebellion? When we are counted among the citizens of that place, will there be any regrets about our sojourn here? Abraham and all faithful men and women before us have desired a better country—a country to call their own (Heb. 11:14, 16). There will always be sin so long as we live here, why would we want to call this our home? The Lord has promised something better and we know that He can and will deliver as He Himself has

said, **“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also”** (John 14:2-3).

Leroy Brownlow once likened the Christian’s desire to be at home with Lord to that of a loyal Labrador who just so happens to be parted from his master in another room and the door closes behind him. The dog may not know anything about the room where his master re-



Olsen Park church of Christ