



What Must I Do to Be Saved?

- **Hear** the word of God (Romans 10:14-17; 1:16,17; John 17:17; Acts 11:14).
- **Believe** in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Acts 16:30,31; Romans 10:9,10; Ephesians 2:8,9; I John 5:1; Galatians 3:26).
- **Repent** of past sins and turn to God (Luke 13:5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 26:20; II Timothy 2:19).
- **Confess** Jesus before men (Matthew 10:32,33; Rom. 10:9,10; I John 4:15; Heb. 10:23).
- **Be Baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:1-6; Galatians 3:26,27; I Peter 3:21).
- **Abide** in the word of God (John 8:31; 15:6,7; I Corinthians 15:1,2; Revelation 2:10; I John 1:9,10; Hebrews 10:24,25; John 4:24).

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Faithful Sayings Issue 14.45 November 4, 2012

Welcome Visitors

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

- Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

14.45

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

November 4
2012



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
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

Respectable Immorality

By Kyle Pope

In the 1966 a movie came out entitled *The Bible* which dramatized biblical events from the creation to the time of Abraham. John Houston played a bumbling Noah, and (in what always seemed to me to be an odd casting choice) George C. Scott played Abraham. When the time came in the movie to portray the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah the movie showed the angels going to warn Lot. As the angels moved through the streets of the city towards Lot's house, strange looking frightening citizens of the city moved busily around them. They were portrayed with frightening painted faces and haunting blank gazes that might be seen in a horror film.

By modern standards of explicitness this depiction was quite tame. This portrayal may or may not have accurately reflected what a Canaanite city of that day might have looked like based on modern archaeological research. However, as I have considered this portrayal



Olsen Park church of Christ

over the years, something else has become striking to me.

As a little boy watching the portrayal of these immoral and wicked citizens of Sodom I was frightened! I would never want to be anywhere near such horrifying creatures nor act as they did. I imagine that this was the very response the producers of that day hoped to inspire. If all sin and immorality was like that people would never allow themselves to be in situations that could lead them to sin or be tempted to engage in such immorality.

The problem is that this is not the way sin looks on the surface. Unfortunately the immoral citizens that move busily around us don't appear to be scary. In fact, sometimes they seem quite harmless. They look like our friendly neighbor who lives with a man to whom she is not married. She seems honest and trustworthy, yet the Bible calls her a **"fornicator"** (Genesis 34:7; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 21:8). They look like that man down the street who works on our car, yet keeps that stack of dirty magazines and posters in his garage. He can fix almost anything, but the Bible calls him an **"idolater"** (Matthew 5:28; Coloss-

ians 3:5; Revelations 21:8). They look like that professor from college who is openly homosexual. He is silly and carries himself with a good sense of humor, but the Bible calls him a **"sodomite"** (1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:10). They look like that nice lady at work who is on her third marriage. The first one ended (as she claims) because she was just "too young" and they "both lost interest." The second ended when she met that nice guy at work that treated her better. She and her husband make such a nice couple, but the Bible calls them **"adulterers"** (Matthew 19:9; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9).

The apostle Paul makes it clear that the responsibility of Christians is not to remove ourselves so completely from the immoral people of the world that we cannot influence them to obey the Lord (1 Corinthians 5:9-10). Even so, we must always be on guard that we

Citizens of Sodom as portrayed in the 1966 movie *The Bible*

do not let the way that the world views immorality to influence us to consider immorality and sin "respectable" when it truth it is something frightening, dangerous, and eternally destructive.

