



## “In Christ” By Kyle Pope

The Bible teaches some wonderful blessings available to those who are “in Christ.” Let us consider these blessings:

- ✓ Redemption (Romans 3:24).
- ✓ Life from the Dead (Romans 6:11).
- ✓ Eternal Life (Romans 6:23).
- ✓ No Condemnation (Romans 8:1).
- ✓ Freedom from the Law of Sin and Death (Rom. 8:2).
- ✓ The Love of God (Romans 8:39).
- ✓ One Body (Romans 12:5).
- ✓ Sanctification (I Corinthians 1:2).
- ✓ Hope (1 Corinthians 15:19).
- ✓ Triumph (2 Cor. 2:14).
- ✓ Removal of the Veil (2 Cor. 3:14).
- ✓ A new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- ✓ Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19).
- ✓ Simplicity (2 Corinthians 11:3).
- ✓ Liberty (Galatians 2:4).
- ✓ Justification (Galatians 2:16).
- ✓ Sonship (Galatians 3:26).
- ✓ Unity (Galatians 3:28).
- ✓ Every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3).
- ✓ Kindness (Ephesians 2:7).
- ✓ Nearness to God (Ephesians 2:13).
- ✓ Partakers of the promise (Eph. 3:6).
- ✓ Consolation (Philippians 2:1).
- ✓ Righteousness through faith (Phil. 3:9).
- ✓ Perfection (Colossians 1:28).
- ✓ Faith & Love (1 Timothy 1:14).
- ✓ The promise of life (2 Timothy 1:1).
- ✓ Grace (2 Timothy 1:9, 2:1).
- ✓ Salvation (2 Timothy 2:10).
- ✓ Salvation through faith (2 Tim. 3:15).

The only question that remains is how does one get into Christ? Romans 6:3 teaches that one is “baptized into Christ.” Galatians 3:27 teaches that in baptism one may put on Christ. *Are you in Christ?*



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# Welcome Visitors

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

ISSUE

15.11

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

March 17,  
2013



## 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

## Seeking Pearls

By Kyle Pope

All of us have come across an item at some point in our lives, either in a catalog or in a store, and from the moment we first see it we realize that we must have it! Our better judgment may tell us we don't really need it. Our wallet tells us that we can't afford it. Even so, we ignore our better judgment, disregard the bank account, and give in to the overpowering compulsion to make the object our own.

Most of the time this is not the kind of disposition that a Christian should allow to govern his or her behavior, yet Jesus, on one occasion spoke about such an attitude in



a very positive light. In Matthew 13:45-46 He told about a merchant, **“Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it”** (NKIV).

Unless we share this gentleman’s passion for pearls we might miss the point of Jesus’ statement. It is



Olsen Park church of Christ

significant because He began the parable by saying **“...the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking pearls”** (13:45a). This shows us that Jesus is not really talking about pearls, but about what motivates a person to serve God as a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

It is amazing to see the energy we often have to devote to various activities in our life. It may be a hobby, a career, or the pursuit of pleasure—there always seems to be an endless supply of enthusiasm for the things that truly interest us. Yet, it may be that when it comes to things that concern our soul we only seem to have a limited amount of time and energy. How many people there must be in this world who go from birth to death without the slightest thought of anything more than the physical. That is not to say that physical things are evil, but why would we choose to spend more time on things that are temporary and no time on things that are eternal?

We often fall victim to what could be called the *have tos*. That is — “Do I have to study the Bible to go to heaven?” Or perhaps — “Do I have to go to attend every service?” Maybe you have thought to your self — “Do I have to give up (you fill in the blank) to be a Christian?” Or, “Do I have to talk to

*all* of my friends about the gospel?” If we truly exhibited the attitude that Christ taught in this parable all of these questions would be meaningless to us. What would concern us was an all-consuming desire to live pleasing to the Lord!

All of us have many things in our lives that occupy our time and energy that do not involve the cause of Christ. Now these may not be sinful in and of themselves, yet, if they have become more important to us than the cause of Christ, they have become sinful! Perhaps this is why Jesus, in His lesson on our concerns for the things of this life makes the point at the end that we should **“...seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”** (Matthew 6:33). Only a few verses before that He made the statement, **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”** (Matthew 6:21). What clear words of truth. We all understand that even though people may claim that some-



thing is important to them, if it is not an important element of their lives their claim is false. Let us all pray that when all is said and done the cause of Christ will be both where our treasure is and where our heart is also.

