ISSUE

17.33

BULLETIN OF THE OLSEN PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

August 23, 2015

Services

Sunday: 9:00 AM 10:00 AM

11:00 AM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter Jeff Nunn Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Steve Dixon
Ryan Ferguson
Arend Gressley
Ben Hight
Jack Langley
Blake McAlister
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Sam Nunn
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott
Justin Smiley
Trevor Yontz

Evangelist:
_Kyle Pope



"An Advocate with the Father" By Kyle Pope

We all have friends and family who lead very upright lives. They love their families. They pay their taxes. They are hard workers and do good to those around them. They are our neighbors and class-

mates. We see them at the grocery store and pass them on the street. From everything we can see with our eyes they are the "cream of the crop" of what this world has



to offer. Within them, however, unseen to the naked eye is a fatal flaw—they are spiritually separated from God! The invisible bullet of sin has penetrated their soul leaving a mortal wound that has rendered

them spiritually dead. Although they appear to be alive and well, they are walking corpses awaiting their everlasting cremation.

Why don't we see this fatal flaw? Perhaps because we are so used to superficial observation. We judge according to how healthy someone looks in the flesh. Often, however, it may be that a person with a broken failing body

is one of the most spiritually healthy among us because he or she does not trust in the flesh. We prize intellect and power, but it is often only the humble and meek that see the importance of reaching outside of themselves. The spiritually dead don't stand out from the crowd. We won't see an arrow floating over them and pointing to them with the words "I am lost!" Yet, whether they realize it or not, the truth is that all souls separated from God because of sin are lost in sin.

The sad thing is that the Bible tells us that is the condition of *most* of the world! Jesus said of the gate leading to destruction "there are many who go in by it" (Matt. 7:13). While of the gate leading to life, He said, "there are few who find it" (Matt. 7:14). In fact, the Bible often uses the term *world* itself, not in reference to the pure and undefiled product of God's work in creation, but of the cor-

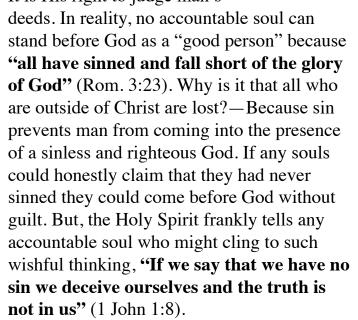
rupt results of what man has done to it. So John teaches, "If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

How are we to rationalize in our minds that a loving God can view those whom we consider so decent and upright as separated from Him? How can we see



Olsen Park church of Christ

them as God does? We often try to tell ourselves that the "good person" we know in the world is somehow accepted by God, but it is only the "bad person" who is not. But, who defines what is *good* and what is *bad?* God sets the standard of man's behavior. It is His right to judge man's



How can the sinful soul approach God the Father? Jesus said, "No one comes to the



Father except through **Me"** (John 14:6). The insurmountable obstacle to the human soul is sin! The necessary remedy to conquer it is Jesus Christ. The fatal deficiency in the worldly soul outside of Christ is the lack of an Advocate with the Father on behalf of sin. The only One who can fill that role is Jesus—"There is no other name under heaven given



among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The Bible declares to the Christian, "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our

sins, and not for ours only but for the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2). Jesus Christ is the most over-worked public defender in human history! Yet, He only works for those who accept His service through faith and obedience to the

gospel. While His caseload is full, He is always

willing to take on more clients. May God help us to see those around us who need Him as desperately as we do, but have not yet come to realize it.





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4700 Andrews Ave. Amarillo TX 79106 806-352-2809 www.olsenpark.com

Welcome Visitors

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

Let us know if you have any questions.