

## IS THE LORD'S CHURCH FOR SALE?

Zechariah knew that the Lord would be betrayed for only 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13). Judas Iscariot was delighted to betray the Christ for the price of a common slave (Matt. 26:15). Most folk's today recoil in awe at Judas' plan to sell the Master into the enemy's hand. But let us forget Judas for a moment and make application to our own lives!

What price do you place on the Savior? In your estimation, how much is He worth? Many people will contend that Christ is worth more than the whole world, and that He is not for sale at any price.

Many of these same people, however, choose to attend the church of **their** choice. If they become disenchanted with one church, they casually switch to another. One **denominational** church is indeed as good as another, but this attitude reveals a glaring lack of knowledge regarding Christ and His church.

The church is the **body** of Christ, and He is the **head** of the body (Eph. 1:22-23). The head cannot be successfully separated from the body! Thus, one value is not to be placed on the Christ and another value placed on His body, the church. The church was not built by man (Matt. 16:18), and neither was it purchased with man's blood (Acts 20:28). Many simply **refuse** to see the truth that if they value the Christ, they must also value His church.

One's attitude and actions speak volumes about his love for the Lord. How do you conduct yourself toward the precious body of Christ?

- Do you forsake assembling together with the saints, or do you strive to be at every service (Heb. 10:25)?

- Do you prepare for and attend Bible classes, or does the morning worship service satisfy you completely?
- Do you volunteer to use your talents and abilities in whatever way you can for the church (1 Cor. 15:58)?
- Are you stingy in giving to the Lord or do you really give as you have been prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2)?
- Do you give purposefully and cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7) so the gospel can be preached?
- Are you guilty of placing other things before the Lord and His church (Matt. 6:33)?
- Are you guilty of covetousness, which is idolatry (Col. 3:5)?
- Can the church depend on you at every service?
- If everyone supported the church the same as you support the church, would the doors remain open?

The Bible reveals to us that Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of pottage (Gen. 25:30-34). One again recoils at the thought of placing more value on a meal than his birthright. But many of God's people today are selling their divine birthright just as cheaply! When one does not give honor and glory to the church as he should, he voids himself of God's approval. When one commits himself to every worldly enterprise that comes along, but refuses to commit himself to the Lord's church, he sells the blessings that are his in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3).

Satan, the formidable foe of the Christian (1 Pet. 5:8), has deceived the majority of those who are members of the church of Christ. So many convince themselves that they would gladly give their lives for the Lord when the truth of the matter is that they refuse to **live** for Him! One who does not work for and defend the body of Christ is certainly not going to give his life for the Cause of Christ!

We do not have to wait until persecution threatens before choosing to demonstrate our faith by faithfully serving in the kingdom. It is sad to realize that freedom and lack of persecution have become detrimental to many professing Christians. The lax attitude of brethren and their willingness to tolerate error and sin is a blueprint for apostasy. May we love the Lord and His church enough to become motivated to correctly worship and serve before a crisis appears! The child of God who loves the church will seek to take advantage of opportunities to serve in the kingdom. People need to be pointed in the direction of the precious gospel for it and it alone has the power to save (Rom. 1:16). The physically sick need to be visited and encouraged and the spiritually sick need to be admonished and restored (Gal. 6:1). There are Bible classes that need to be taught and other chores that need to be done.

What price do you place on the Lord's church? Are you willing to sell the Lord's body if the price is high enough? The value we place on the Lord, His church, and our soul will determine how serious we are about working, worshipping, and serving in the kingdom.

Jesus warns all, saying, "*but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also*" (Matt. 6:20-21). Let us refuse to sell the church of the Lord!

**Marvin L. Weir from Bonham St. Beacon**

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*  
**Matthew 6:33**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Chris Edwards, 12-21; Curtis Stillwell, 12-23;  
Tammy Marcum, 12-27.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Millie Robertson (PM); Debbie Schleif; Tom Tucker (PM).

**Wednesday:** Millie Robertson and Clara Scott.

Louise Dodson is recovering from her foot surgery at home. Tom Tucker is being treated for an eye disorder. Barbara James is recovering from her surgery.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## **HOME BOUND**

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

The Nelson family was in the Wichita area visiting relatives last weekend. Wilba Hopkins was in Springfield, MO visiting relatives last weekend. The Browns were away on business on Wednesday night.

## **LADIES CLASS**

The Ladies Bible Class will not meet on December 24, but will resume classes on December 31.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

Brother Jim O'Connor will be our guest speaker on January 28th. We look forward to having Jim and Judy with us and welcome them to Olathe!

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 46; Sunday PM, 30; Wednesday PM, 33.

*"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."*  
**Ephesians 6:10**

## **Those To Serve**

December 21, 2008

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas**  
**SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jared Nelson**  
**PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**ASSIST..... John Cody Carter**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Joel Nelson**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek**

### **WEDNESDAY 24th**

**SONG LEADER..... John Cody Carter**  
**INVITATION ..... Steve Brown**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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