

Remember our busy schedule in September. First we have the **Old Settler's Day** booth for September 8-10. This is 10 AM to 10 PM each day. Please sign up to help on the list on the bulletin board at the church building. And come visit the booth!

We then have our gospel meeting with **Greg Gwin** set for September 25-28. Please invite your friends.

Visit our website at lenexachurchofchrist.org



SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

LIFE IS PRECIOUS
Jim Stauffer

When we think of something precious we consider it to have a unique value above most other things. We speak of precious metals and gems and we refer to gold, silver, diamonds, rubies, etc.

The famous Hope Diamond is a great attraction at the Smithsonian in our nation's capital. This is because it is considered to be very precious. Uniquely valued so that it has changed hands very many times as people will invest heavily in something so precious.

Something each of us has that is more precious than all the world's gold, silver and precious stones is life. We have been created in the image of God with an eternal soul. (Gen. 1:26; 2:7) We will and do go to any extreme to preserve life. We do so because without it nothing else has any value.

Jesus categorizes all people into two groups. He promises eternity for both groups. The problem is He addresses one group as cursed and says they will go into everlasting fire as punishment for their lives here on earth. The other group He describes as righteous and promises them eternal life. (Matthew 25:31-46) If we believe the words of Jesus we should understand how precious the righteous are to Him that He would grant to them that which is most precious, eternal life.

Peter presents an interesting list of precious things that lead one to the condition of righteousness and then eternal life.

He says that God in the process of providing all things that pertain unto life and godliness has granted unto us precious and exceeding great promises that allow us to partake of the divine nature. (2 Peter 1:3,4)

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Send a Copy to a Friend

Evangelist:
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MEETING TIMES
 Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
 Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
 Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM
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He then says if we will accept the precious stone that God sent as the cornerstone of His spiritual house, we can be redeemed from sin by His precious blood. (1 Peter 2:4-6; 1:19) Paul says this redemption makes us righteous and thus candidates for eternal life.

Now we understand that accepting this precious stone, Jesus Christ, is a very serious commitment. Jesus said it was like a man who found a treasure in a field and sold all that he had to buy that field. He also likened it to a man in search of precious pearls. When he found one above all others in value he sold all he had to buy it. (Matthew 13:44-46)

Unfortunately Jesus presents both sides of the story in His teaching. He relates the story of the ruler who came to Him saying, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" (Matthew 19:16) After he had assured Jesus he had kept all the commandments, Jesus told him, "If thou wouldest be perfect, go, sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me." (Matthew 19:21)

The sad part of this story is the man went away sorrowful because he would not part with his many possessions.

Even though we all know the value of life, there is no guarantee we will not be foolish enough to value temporal things that have far less value above that which is truly precious.

The eternal life of man is of such value we should do all we can to obtain it and help others do the same.

Two Men Have an Unfaithful Child

Bill and Fred are both faithful in their attendance and active in the work of the local church, but unfortunately both men have a grown child who does not serve the Lord faithfully. The spiritual lives of Bill and Fred seem similar in many ways, but when it comes to dealing with the unfaithful child there is a big difference.

When Bill is asked about his son, he is honest in describing the situation and urges everyone to do all they can to help restore his son to faithfulness. On the other hand, if anything is said to Fred, he immediately becomes defensive and makes excuses for his son. While Bill wishes people would be more direct in dealing with the soul-threatening sin in his son's life, Fred continually worries that someone is going to say the wrong thing to his son and "offend" him.

There are a lot of "Bills" who understand the danger their erring children are in and seek the help of all. But tragically, there are far too many "Fred's" who seem so worried about the feelings of their children that they make excuses for them, cover up for them, perhaps try to keep people from even finding out about them and become

resentful toward those who do try to help.

When people are overtaken in sin fellow-Christians have an obligation to restore them (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19, 20). As parents, we must make certain that we do not stand in the way of those seeking to restore the erring. To carry it even further, are the parents themselves excused from the obligation to "restore such a one"? It has to be truly heartbreaking and gut-wrenching for a parent to see the church withdraw from one of their children (see 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15), but a parent who has the proper faith in God and a true love for his child rejoices that others care enough about their child to follow God's plan. Though painful, they trust that the desired end is that "his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Corinthians 5:5).

Let us love our children; seek to train them when they are young and then remember two things if they should choose not to remain faithful:

1) We must love Jesus (and His teachings) even more than our children (Matthew 10:37).

2) Our love for our children is a very shallow love if it does not extend to their souls.

Parents, please think carefully about this painful subject. Do not ever allow your love, pride, embarrassment, shame or anything else to stand in the way of that which is needed to bring your child to repentance.

- by John R. Gibson

There'll be no debt ceiling in heaven
No cause to weep or despair
No visions of pushing poor Granny
Off of a cliff in her chair

There'll be no debt ceiling in heaven
no seniors whining for more
No medical bills will be unpaid
When we land on that beautiful shore

There'll be no debt ceiling in heaven
Nothing will be left to chance
No sorrow or heartache forever
For Jesus has paid in advance.

by Grant Clothier