

## THE KINGDOM: A TREASURE!

Matthew 13 stands as a rich storehouse of information dealing with the nature of the Lord's kingdom, His church. Several parables are recorded there for us to learn these lessons. Verse 44 is where we would address this article. It reads, *"The kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hidden in the field; which a man found, and hid; and in his joy he goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field" (Matthew 13:44)*. Obviously, our Lord taught in this parable that the kingdom was like the treasure. Let us notice a few things about this treasure (kingdom) if we are to profit by this teaching.

First, the kingdom is to be **found**. Seven centuries earlier, the prophet said, *"Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6)*. It is God's desire that we seek Him out, for as Paul said to the idolaters at Athens, *"that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27)*. Again, Jesus taught us to *"seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33*

Second, the kingdom must be **valued**. Considering the fact that Jesus paid the highest price, we ought to value the precious church as well. Paul called it, *"the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28)*. As Peter said, *"knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, even the blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19)*. Let us have the attitude of the apostle Paul when he told the Philippians, *"Howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the*

*excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:7-8)*.

Third, the kingdom must be **bought**. What was the kingdom...the field or the treasure? The treasure! What then is the field? That which contains the treasure. What contains the "seed of the kingdom" (Lk.8;11)? The Bible, of course. So, to buy the field which holds the treasure is to do as the wise man said, *"Buy the truth, and sell it not; Yea, wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23)*. May we say with Jeremiah, *"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy words were unto me a joy and the rejoicing of my heart" (Jeremiah 15:16)*.

Finally, the kingdom is ours *only* with the proper **surrender/sacrifice**. This is the teaching regarding being a disciple from Luke 14:25-35. With that proper perspective on being a follower of Christ, we receive the reward of joy as citizens in the kingdom. Note what Paul wrote, *"for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17)*. And again, *"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13)*. When we "buy" the truth of God's word, obey what it teaches and thus become a part of the kingdom of Christ (the church), what a joy is ours forever. Let us therefore *"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10)*.

## CLOAK-HOLDERS

As you consider the title of this article, please be reminded of a young man we read about in the book of Acts. Stephen was preaching the Gospel of Christ, and was convicting the listeners of “resisting the Holy Spirit” by their rejection of the Christ of God. These Jews did not like what they heard and so they stoned the preacher, making him the first Christian martyr. The Scriptures say *“But they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and rushed upon him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses **laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul**”* (Acts 7:57-58). Although Saul did not cast any stones (as far as the text reveals), it is clear that he was in agreement with what took place. The Bible states specifically that *“Saul was consenting unto his death”* (Acts 8:1).

There are many in the church today who fit well the description of Saul, in that they too are cloak-holders. They may not actively engage in harming the work or reputation of others, but they certainly will hold the cloaks of those who do. They may look upon the situation and say “Tisk, tisk, what a pity,” but then continue to have fellowship, support, and uphold the work of those who do the beating and robbing (figuratively speaking). This reminds me of the old saying, “With friends like that, who needs enemies!”

Brethren, consider your call to arms to *“have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them”* (Ephesians 5:11). Take a strong and fearless stand against false teachers, and those who pass themselves off as being sound, but who delight in destroying the work and names of others who disagree with them. Act like men and be strong (1 Corinthians 16:13)!

# RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley James Grayson	614-751-1082 614-409-0941

November 8, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

### Wednesday's Wisdom:

*“Redeem the time for it moves swiftly; set aside sin and run (work) for the Lord.”*  
Josh Haley

**Fellowship Meal and men's business meeting:** are today. Please stay and eat with us, there is always plenty. Men, please stay or return by about 12:30pm for our business meeting.